NEW WAVE WRESTLING

New Wave Wrestling's 1999 Fact-Filled Yearbook!

LOCKER-ROOM SCOOPS! • COLOR PINUPS! • IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS!

GOLDBERG's AMAZING ROOKIE YEAR!

New Wave Wrestling®

FEB. 1999
No. 35

THE NEW BREED OF PRO-WRESTLING MAGAZINE

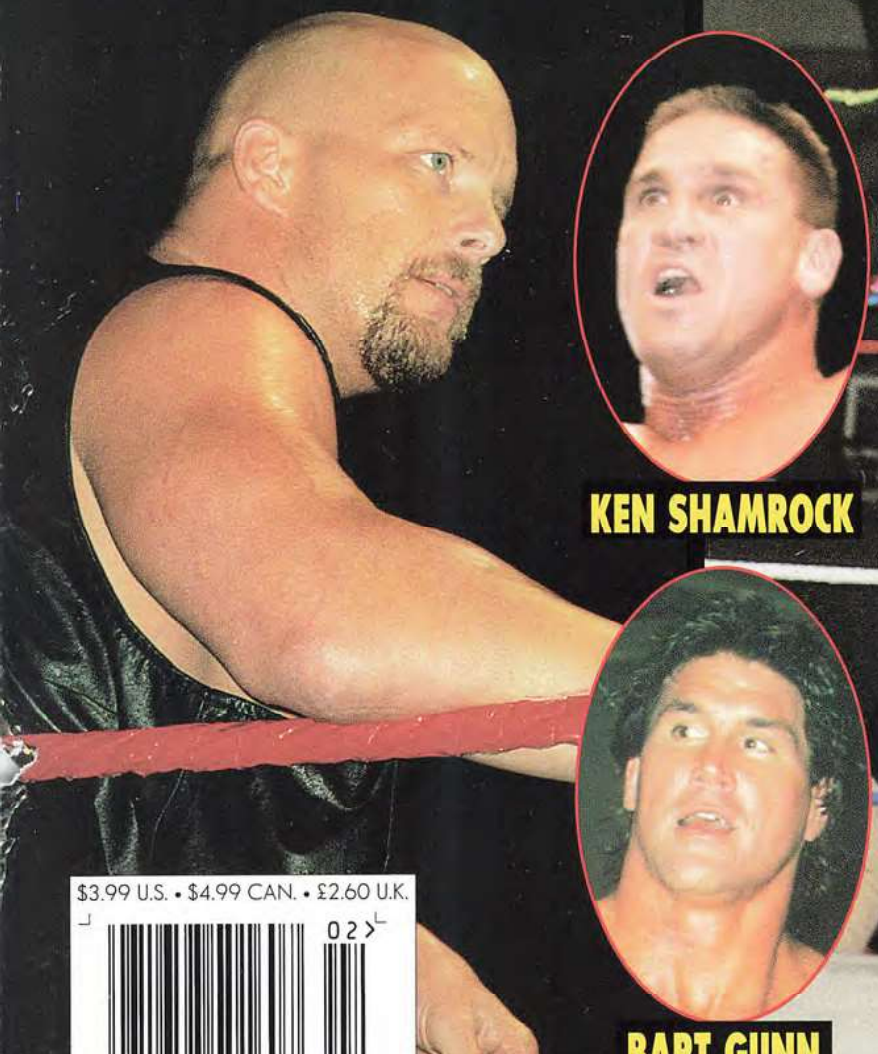
DEDICATED TO THE CONNOISSEURS OF MAT CULTURE!

ARE GUNN & SHAMROCK

AUSTIN'S DEADLY REALITY CHECK?

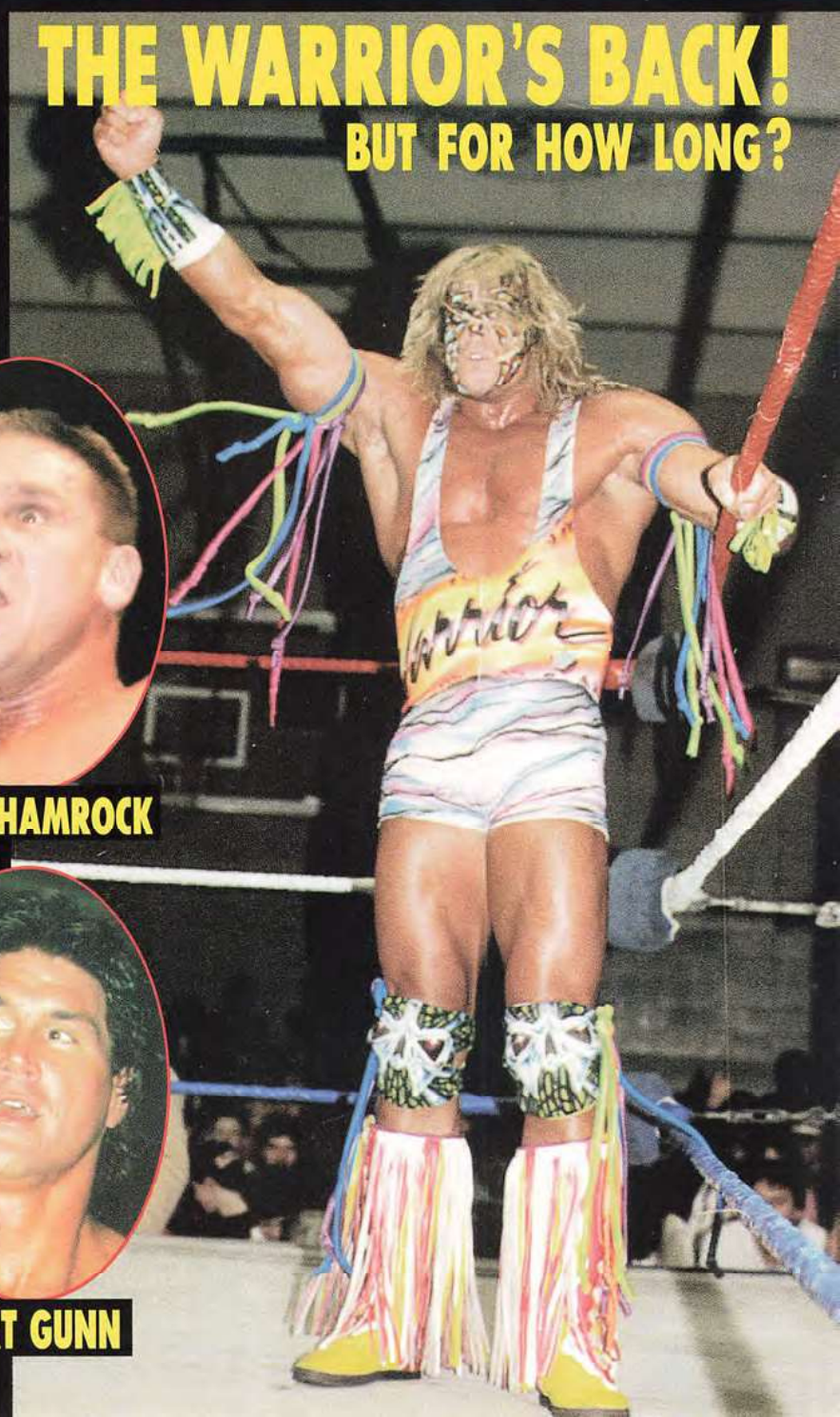
THE WARRIOR'S BACK!

BUT FOR HOW LONG?



KEN SHAMROCK

BART GUNN



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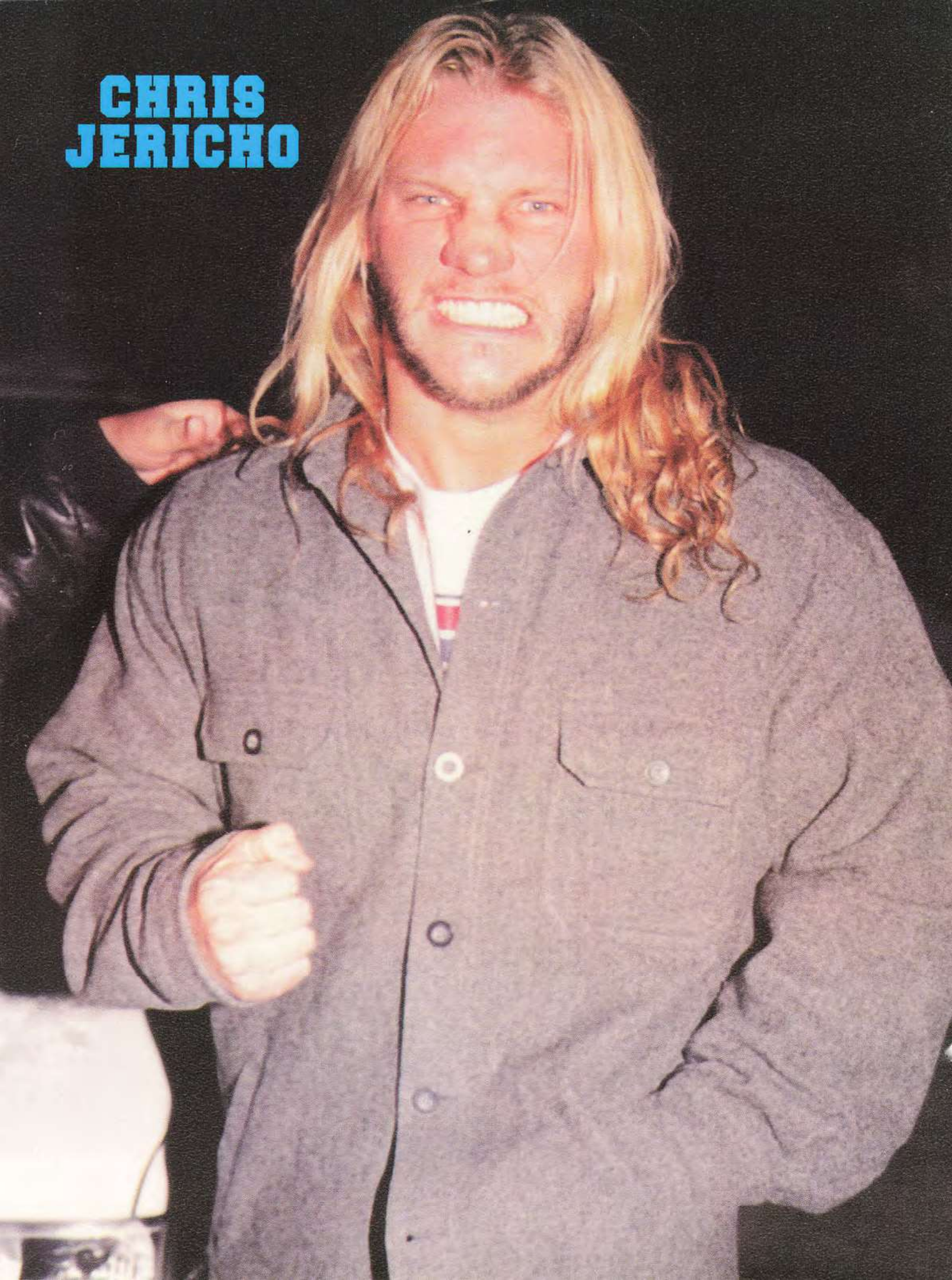

New Wave Wrestling®

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Color Pinups: Nicole Bass (Jerry Wilson) • Gangrel/Luna (Steve Burton) • Chris Jericho, Mankind, DDP & Sable (Scott Ferenczi).

Back Cover: Nicole Bass (Don Laible) • Tommy Dreamer, Jesse Jammes (Jerry Wilson) • Jacqueline (Jim Massie) • Sensational Sherri (Steve Burton).

OFFICIAL PRO-WRESTLING RANKINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. "Stone Cold" Steve Austin
2. Ken Shamrock
3. The Undertaker
4. Bart Gunn
5. Hunter Hearst Helmsley
6. Kane
7. Mankind
8. Tiger Ali Singh
9. Rocky Maivia
10. Val Venis

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
TOP-FIVE TAG TEAMS

1. The New Age Outlaws
2. Kane & The Undertaker
3. The Nation of Domination
4. Disciples of Apocalypse
5. The Headbangers

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Kenta Kobashi (Japan)
2. Masa Chono (Japan)
3. Ken Shamrock (U.S.)
4. "Stone Cold" Steve Austin (U.S.)
5. Rob Van Dam (U.S.)
6. Shinya Hashimoto (Japan)
7. Kensuke Sasaki (Japan)
8. Bret "The Hitman" Hart (Canada)
9. Danie Voges (South Africa)
10. Universo 2000 (Mexico)

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Jushin Lyger (Japan)
2. Taka Michinoku (Japan)
3. Chris Jericho (Canada)
4. Felino (Mexico)
5. Yoshinari Ogawa (Japan)
6. Karloff Lagarde Jr. (Mexico)
7. Tony St. Clair (U.K.)
8. Billy Kidman (U.S.)
9. Franz Schumann (Austria)
10. Sunny Wonder (Nigeria)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Bill Goldberg
2. "Hollywood" Hogan
3. Bret "The Hitman" Hart
4. Sting
5. The Giant
6. "Wolfpack" Kevin Nash
7. The Warrior
8. "Diamond" Dallas Page
9. Booker T.
10. Lex Luger

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
TOP-FIVE TAG TEAMS

1. Scott Hall & The Giant
2. Sting & Lex Luger
3. Dean Malenko & Steve McMichael
4. The British Bulldog & Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart
5. Disco Inferno & Alex Wright

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN TAG TEAMS

1. Sabu & Rob Van Dam (U.S.)
2. Genichiro Tenryu & Shiro Koshinaka (Japan)
3. Ulf Hermann & Tony St. Clair (Germany/U.K.)
4. Fuerza Guerrera & AAA Mosco (Mexico)
5. El Samurai & Jushin Lyger (Japan)
6. Atlantis & Lizmark (Mexico)
7. Shinjiro Otani & Tatsuhito Takaiwa (Japan)
8. Wrecking Crew's Fury & Rage (U.S.)
9. Jun Akiyama & Akira Taue (Japan)
10. The Iron Brothers (Nigeria)

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN WOMEN

1. Takako Inoue (Japan)
2. Momoe Nakanishi (Japan)
3. Yumiko Hotta (Japan)
4. Shark Tsuchiya (Japan)
5. Brittany Brown (U.S.)
6. Brandi Alexander (U.S.)
7. Xochitl Hamada (Mexico)
8. De Stubborn Headache (Liberia)
9. Rosy Moreno (Mexico)
10. Anna "Ring" Marshal (Nigeria)

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COMMENTARY
FROM THE CUTTING EDGE
by Publisher/Editor MICHAEL O'HARA

Hey, New Waver! Welcome to our *1999 Yearbook*. As always, we are honored to provide you with the most-comprehensive international coverage to be found anywhere.

In this editorial, I'd like to touch upon a new ploy wrestling promoters are utilizing. They are hiding behind the word "sophisticated" in order to present a questionable product to a predominantly adolescent audience.

I've had a hard time accepting their use of "sophisticated" to describe their events. I've never considered one athlete hitting another over the head with a chair as something which would fall into this category, but maybe I'm wrong. Let's look at this adjective by way of its definition in *Webster's New World Dictionary*. It is as follows:

> **so-phis´-ti-cat´-ed** adj. **1** not simple, naive, etc.; worldly-wise or knowledgeable, subtle, etc. **2** for sophisticated people **3** highly complex or developed in form, technique, etc.

When a promoter says his product is "sophisticated," he is using a distorted definition of the word. What he's actually saying is that it's an adults-only product in the tradition of X-rated movies. In the publishing business, for example, they now refer to what was once considered "nudie girlie mags" as "sophisticate titles," so you can see the genesis of this new definition. But unlike the entrepreneurs engaging in the "adults-only" sex trade, wrestling promoters seem to be oblivious to retaliatory actions by local civic groups or possible government scrutiny. The mat impresarios continue along their unmindful ways because ratings are going through the roof and profit reports are reaching record-breaking new levels on a monthly basis; however, cracks are beginning to show in their fortresses of stone, albeit small cracks.

We've just received a report that the Catholic Youth Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania, a site for live wrestling events for many *decades*, will no longer book shows due to what it considers questionable content. Perhaps they're objecting to what's presented on the weekly TV broadcasts. Can the promoters justify female fans at ringside exposing their breasts? How about the portrayal of an ersatz porn star as a "good guy" engaging in an infidelity with the wife of a Japanese stereotype, who, in turn, threatens to chop off the hero's "wee wee"? Maybe they disapprove of the latest grudge feud which occurred after one wrestler urinated into another wrestler's boots in the locker room. Either the promoters don't have a clue to responsible programming or they just don't care.

If a "sophisticated" pro-wrestling promotion (using the *true* sense of the word) did exist, it would barely resemble the cable mainstay we watch today. The emphasis would revolve around actual mat skills coupled with genuine background information on the athletes involved. The goofy, make-believe managers would cease to exist. The monstrously mammaried valets would take their zeppelin-like torsos and drift away, returning to the world of strip joints. The stereotypes—the very antithesis of sophisticated—would vanish. Heated, high-energy competition would replace hate. Intelligent interviews would replace ego-drenched screamfests which seem to occupy 75% of the TV broadcasts. Wrestlers—heroes and villains alike—would become bona fide sports stars to be admired and respected rather than classless thugs who seem more suited to be bouncers at seedy, third-rate nightclubs or brain-dead gangster's henchmen in Hollywood flicks.

Is wrestling sophisticated? When you apply the traditional definition, it doesn't even come close. Whatever sophisticated is, today's wrestling is exactly the opposite!

Using the "revised" definition of the word—as used by those in the adults-only-XXX movie and "skin" magazine businesses—I'd say that pro wrestling is quickly becoming a new addition to their ranks. If you're comfortable "exposing" yourself and your family (particularly youngsters) to this graphic cornucopia of suggestive material, you've already accepted the situation. However if the direction that wrestling is taking concerns you, you need to make your voice heard by writing strong but respectful letters to the major-league promoters (addresses can be found in our **FREE** Directory which comes with your subscription), and remember, every time you plunk down your hard-earned money for an arena ticket or pay-per-view, you're basically telling the promoters that you approve of their actions.

In closing, it is a privilege to publish a magazine for YOU—the "thinking fan"—who enjoys thought-provoking and comprehensive rasslin' reporting. As always, keep those positive waves!

MICHAEL O'HARA

P.S. Our next issue ***(New Wave Wrestling #36)*** will arrive at your local store on **January 28, 1999**. Did you know you could have it as early as **January 17th** as a subscriber? We've just made the greatest mat mag subscription offer even greater! (Even we don't know how we do it!) Now, more than ever, there is no reason that any ***New Wavers*** should suffer the trauma of another newsstand sellout! Take advantage of our full year's subscription: 5 info-packed issues of ***New Wave Wrestling*** plus 4 **BRAND-NEW** "Inside Secrets of Pro Wrestling" booklets (Write to Your Favorite Wrestlers **1999** Directory • Wrestlers' Real Names & Birthdays **#3** • The History of the World Heavyweight Title • The History of the Women's World Title) and $45.95 in **All-New** discount ***NWW*** coupons—an awesome $73.95 value—for ONLY $25.00! (see **Page 54** for details).

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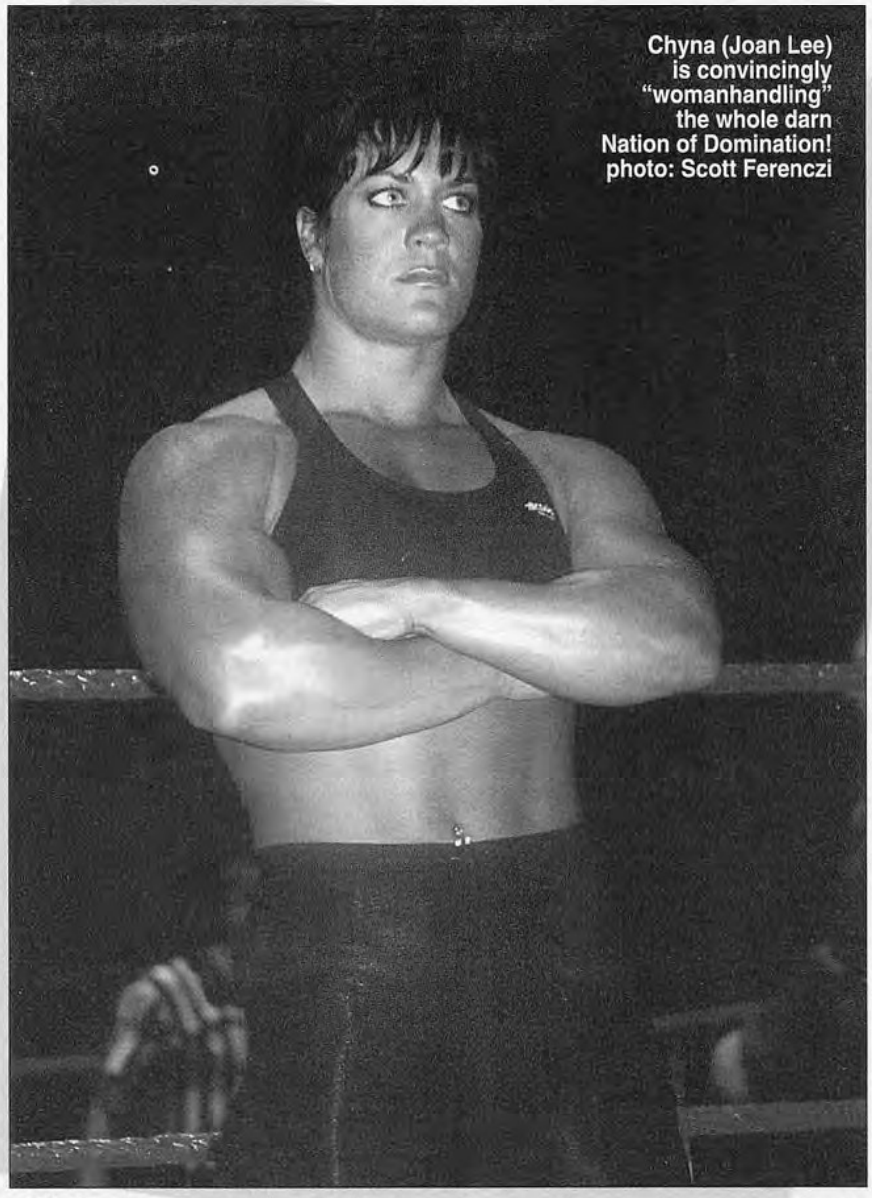
NEXT WAVE NEWSREEL

MAT NEWS OF THE PAST, PRESENT & FAR-FLUNG FUTURE!



Chyna (Joan Lee) is convincingly "womanhandling" the whole darn Nation of Domination! photo: Scott Ferenczi

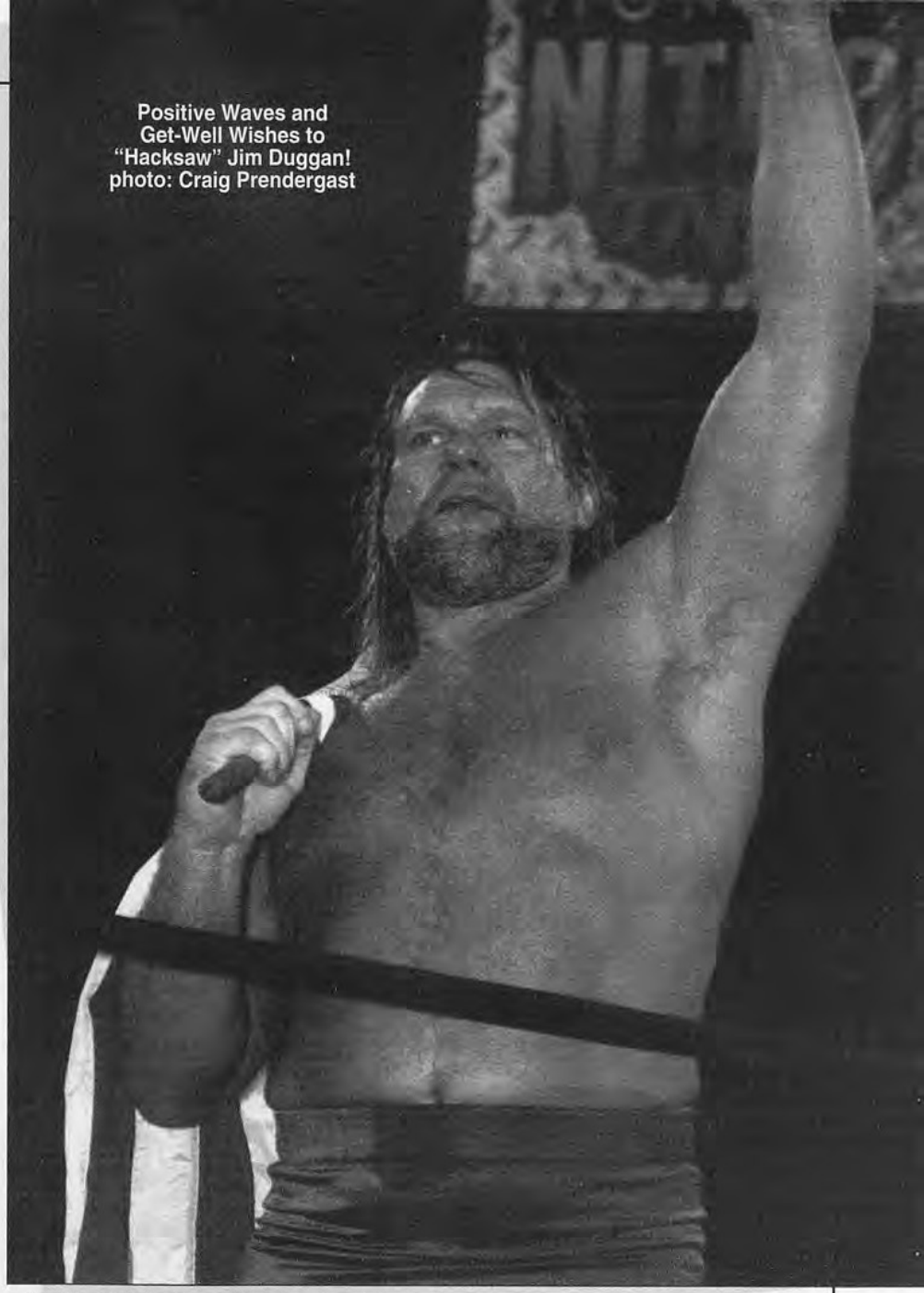
• **WWF:** You've seen the bloodbath, soon you'll be able to eat the sandwich! That's right, ***New Waver***, the World Wrestling Federation theme restaurant (tentatively called the Wrestlemania Café) looms on the horizon and will soon be a reality in New York City's Times Square. This is a joint venture by the WWF and 905 Parkview Group, a theme restaurant developer. The New York restaurant will be a prototype for what is expected to be a chain of eateries across the nation featuring numerous television screens airing matches, live appearances by WWF wrestlers, an actual wrestling ring for live demonstrations, and a WWF Attitude souvenir shop. (Will Chyna recommend the "Chynese" food? Groan.)

And if don't lose your lunch at the restaurant, you can always try losing your shirt at the WWF Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. (I swear to you, ***New Waver***, I'm not making this stuff up!) The World Wrestling Federation submitted the highest bid at a bankruptcy auction this past August and took possession of Debbie Reynolds's Hotel and Casino for a reported $10.65 million. The property is reportedly valued at over $20 million. Just a word of advice to all you gambling grapplephiles heading to Las Vegas—watch out for the one-arm bandit as he might be concealing a foreign object. (Double groan!)

After several months of physical therapy to rehabilitate the herniated discs in his spine, Shawn Michaels (Michael Hickenbottom) has returned to the WWF landscape as a color commentator. It remains unclear at press time when (or if) "HBK" will ever again engage in active ring duty. Despite continuous pain, Shawn interjected himself in a squared-circle skirmish and in the process saved Chyna from a fate worse than death...a kiss from Mark Henry. Will Michaels once again ally himself with his former D-X associates? It's still too soon to tell.

After destroying Justin "Hawk" Bradshaw in the finals of the *Brawl For All* tough-guy tournament, Bart Gunn (Kip Sopp) has emerged as the newest title threat on the scene. It will be interesting to see how well he fares against the likes of "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, Ken Shamrock, and other brawlers of equal stature.

Another WWF grappler who has risen to the top of the popularity poll is Val Venis (Sean Morley), but it's really his



Positive Waves and Get-Well Wishes to "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan! photo: Craig Prendergast

ring talent that's getting him over with the fans. If anything, this lame porn-star gimmick has prevented him from being taken seriously.

It's amazing to see the extent of mainstream appeal pro wrestling has attained in the United States. "Stone Cold" Steve Austin (Steve Williams) has been used to sell a new compilation of classic heavy-metal rock hits, and there is also talk of Austin hosting a program on the MTV music cable channel. Steve has already been seen (in "claymation" form) on MTV's *Celebrity Death Match* program.

While on the subject of Austin, he recently exchanged a series of playful holds with morning TV talk-show host Regis Philbin and the result was a swollen nose and a pair of watery eyes for Mr. Philbin. Regis, we think you're tops, but in the future, leave the rasslin' drills for those who know!

The uneasy alliance between The Undertaker (Mark Calaway) and his "brother" Kane (Glen Jacobs) seems to be settling down. How long this gruesome twosome will coexist as a tag team remains to be seen.

"Wrestlevangelist" Dustin Runnels, formerly known as Goldust, continues to rant and rave, but is anyone listening?...Edge (Adam Copeland) and Sable (Rena Mero) have proven to be a successful mixed-tag combo in recent outings against "Marvelous" Marc Mero and Jacqueline (Jackie Moore).

Sunny (Tamara Sytch) has left the WWF and is now exhibiting her talents (?) in ECW rings...Steve "Dr. Death" Williams made an inauspicious first impression on WWF fans by getting knocked out by the WWF's resident ring ruffian Bart Gunn.

The injured Steven Regal (Darren Matthews) should be back on the WWF scene by the time you read this...Look for Legion of Doom 2000 to be comprised of Animal (Joseph Laurinatis) and Droz (Daniel Drosdov)...Although for years we've reported that Luna's real name is actually Angel Vachon, we heard from several sources that her first name is actually...Gertrude. Can any ***New Waver*** verify or deny this for us?

The Parade of Human Oddities' resident "Giant" Paul Silva has been doing double duty by competing in the WWF as well as the Memphis Power Pro circuit in Tennessee where he has been feuding with Jerry "The King" Lawler.

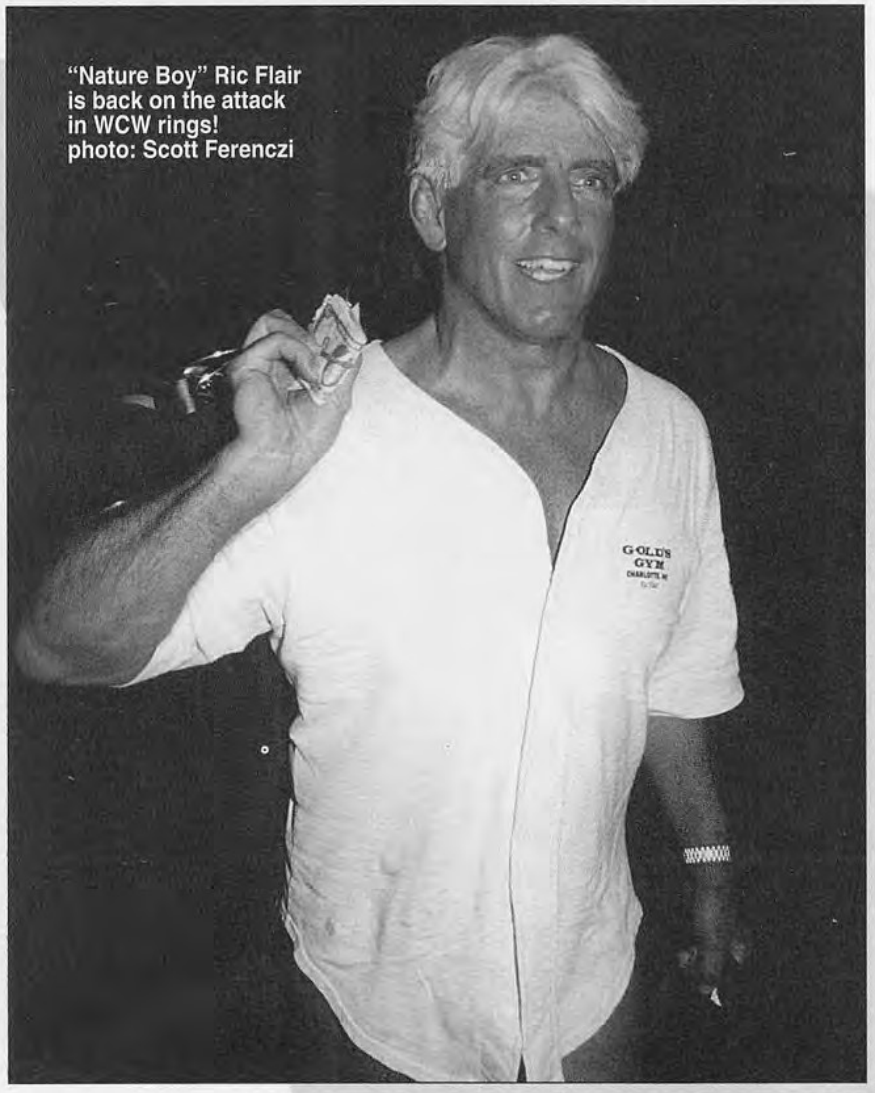
Tiger Ali Singh (Michael Hans) has taken Ted DiBiase's millionaire gimmick to an all-new low. If you haven't seen his WWF *Raw* "challenges" to audience members, you should consider yourself very, very lucky.

On a New Jersey independent show this past summer, a trio of beloved WWF legends brought back many fond memories for their loyal fans when former World champion Bruno Sammartino refereed a match between Nicolai Volkoff and Dominic Denucci. The burly Russian was disqualified because of outside interference from his manager.

Taka Michinoku has joined Yamaguchi San (Wally Yamaguchi) and his Kaientai gang. Even with the addition of the WWF World light-heavyweight champ, the troupe has met with limited success...Olympic wrestling star Kurt Angle has been taken under the wing of Dory Funk Jr. at the WWF training camp.

• **WCW & NWO:** The Ultimate Warrior (James Brian Hellwig) is back and WCW has him! The painted punisher allegedly signed a one-year million-dollar contract. (At press time, it is unclear as to how many ring appearances are expected within this time frame.) At any rate, Warrior has immediately issued a challenge to Hulk Hogan for a "legends showdown."

For all the money-minded folks out there, Bill Goldberg's four-year contract with WCW allegedly pays the title kingpin $200,000 for his first year, $400,000



"Nature Boy" Ric Flair is back on the attack in WCW rings! photo: Scott Ferenczi

for his second year, $600,000 for his third year, and $800,000 for his final year. (That's not bad for two-minutes work per night.)

"Nature Boy" Ric Flair (Richard Morgan Fliehr) and WCW apparently have wrestled to a draw in their multimillion-dollar lawsuits against one another. If you recall from our previous issue, WCW brought a $2 million lawsuit against the former World heavyweight champion, who allegedly failed to show up for four scheduled matches in spite of a three-year agreement with the company. Flair alleged in his lawsuit that he had no contract with WCW, but merely a letter of intent to sign a $2 million contract for 630 appearances over the next three years.

Wrath (Bryan Clarke) has become the latest candidate for a position with NWO Hollywood...Just when you thought it was safe to return to pay-per-view shows, rumors are circulating that TV sitcom star Drew Carey will be the next nonwrestler to be showcased in a WCW main event. SHEESH!

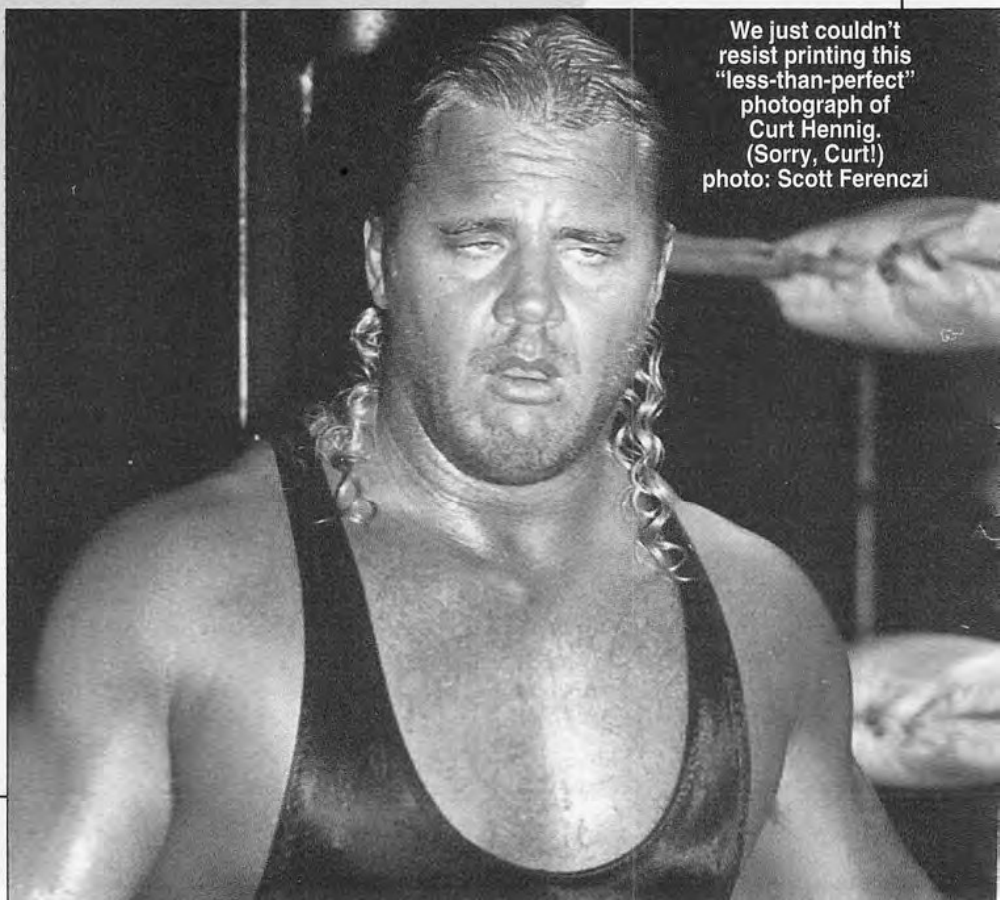
Topps trading cards will be releasing a series of WCW cards in the very near future...Saturn (Perry Satullo) has renewed his contract with WCW for another three years.

Ray Misterio Jr. (Oscar Gutierrez González) underwent yet another surgery on his knee. Get well soon, Rey, from the ***NWW*** crew..."Crippler" Chris Benoit is negotiating with WCW for a contract renewal.

We've already reported on the WWF's expansion into theme restaurants and casino gambling, but did you know that by the time you read this mighty mat mag WCW's first wrestling theme restaurant called the WCW Nitro Café will open for business in Las Vegas, Nevada?

Bret Hart looks primed and ready to break off on his own after his recent televised disagreements with NWO Hollywood's Hulk Hogan. It's time for "The Hitman" to get back on target and aim for World title honors.

Others on the circuit include: Reese (Ron Reis), "Diamond" Dallas Page (Page Falkenberg), Steve McMichael, Dean Malenko (Dean Simon), Raven (Scott Levy), Brad Armstrong (Robert James Jr.), Barbarian (Sionne Vailahi), and Public Enemy's Johnny (Mike Durham) & Rocco (Ted Petty). ***NWW***



We just couldn't resist printing this "less-than-perfect" photograph of Curt Hennig. (Sorry, Curt!) photo: Scott Ferenczi

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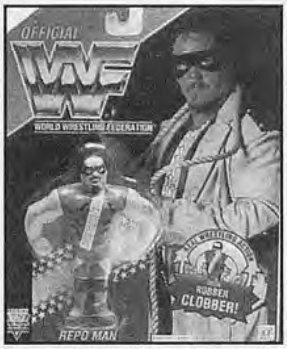

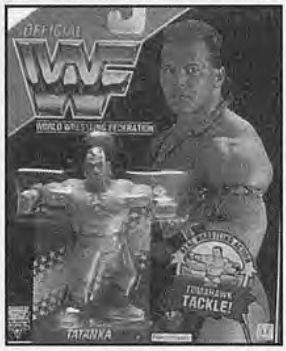

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RETRO RASSLIN' RECAP

A Summary of Recent WWF & WCW Title Changes

• ***July 26, 1998 Fresno, California—WWF Fully Loaded pay-per-view:*** "Stone Cold" Steve Austin (Steve Williams) & The Undertaker (Mark Calaway) defeated Kane (Glen Jacobs) & Mankind (Mick Foley) for the WWF World tag-team straps. (The Undertaker tombstoned & pinned Kane.)

• ***July 27, 1998 Anaheim, California—WWF Raw is War/War Zone:*** Bart Gunn (Kip Sopp) knocked out Steve "Dr. Death" Williams in a startling *Brawl for All* elimination-tournament upset.

• ***August 10, 1998 Omaha, Nebraska—WWF Raw is War/War Zone:*** Kane & Mankind defeated Steve Austin & The Undertaker to regain the WWF World tag titles at 14:28 in a "Four Corners Tag-Team Elimination Match." (Kane chokeslammed & pinned The Undertaker.) This match also included The New Age Outlaws and Rocky Maivia & D-Lo Brown (A.C. Connor).

• ***August 10, 1998 Rapid City, South Dakota—WCW Nitro:*** Lex Luger (Lawrence Pfohl) used a torture-rack submission hold to defeat Bret "The Hitman" Hart for the WCW United States heavyweight strap at 14:13.

Also on the same show, Chris Jericho (Chris Irvine) used a lion-tamer submission hold to defeat Stevie Ray (Lane Huffman) for the WCW World Television heavyweight strap at 4:54. (The Giant interfered which set up the pinfall.)

• ***August 11, 1998 Des Moines, Iowa—(shown on the August 17, 1998 edition of WWF Raw is War/War Zone):*** Gangrel (David "Vampire Warrior" Heath) made his WWF Raw debut by defeating Brian Christopher (Brian Lawler).

• ***August 13, 1998 Fargo, North Dakota—WCW Thunder:*** Bret "The Hitman" Hart used the sharpshooter submission hold to defeat Lex Luger and regain the WCW United States heavyweight title at 9:37.

• ***August 17, 1998 Hartford, Connecticut—WCW Monday Nitro:*** The Ultimate Warrior (James Brian Hellwig) returned to the wrestling ring and immediately challenged "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan (Terrence Gene Bollea) to a showdown.

• ***August 24, 1998 Chicago, Illinois—WCW Monday Nitro:*** Stevie Ray joined the ranks of New World Order Hollywood.

• ***August 24, 1998 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—WWF Raw is War/War Zone:*** Bart Gunn knocked out Justin "Hawk" Bradshaw to win the *Brawl for All* elimination tournament and the $75,000 purse.

• ***August 30, 1998 New York City, New York—WWF SummerSlam pay-per-view:*** Jesse Jammes (Brian James) & Billy Gunn (Michael Plotchik) defeated Kane & Mankind to regain the WWF World tag-team belts. (Gunn pinned Mankind.)

Also, Hunter Hearst Helmsley (Paul Michael LeVesque) defeated "The Rock" Rocky Maivia (Duane Glasteau) in a ladder match to capture the WWF Intercontinental heavyweight crown.

• ***September 14, 1998 Greenville, South Carolina—WCW Monday Nitro:*** Kidman (Peter Gruner) pinned Juventud Guerrera (Anibal Gonzales) for the WCW World cruiserweight championship at 13:13.

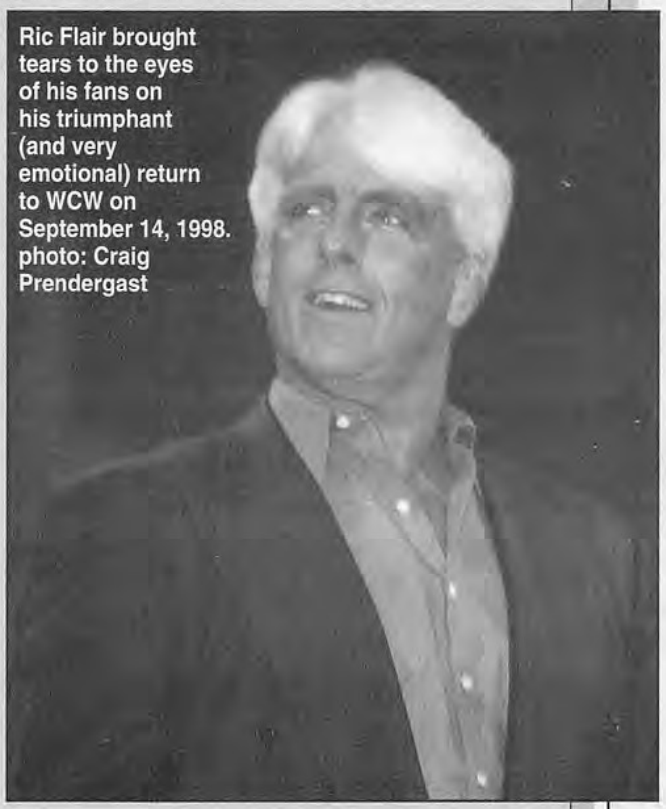
Also on the same show, in what will undoubtedly go down in mat history as one of its finest moments, a standing ovation ushered in a teary-eyed "Nature Boy" Ric Flair (Richard Morgan Fliehr) as he made his triumphant return to WCW and recreated The Four Horsemen with partners Dean Malenko, Steve McMichael, Chris Benoit, and Arn Anderson.

• ***September 15, 1998 Sacramento, California—(Shown on the September 21, 1998 edition of WWF Raw is War/War Zone):*** Jacqueline (Jackie Moore) pinned Sable (Rena Mero) at 2:51 to capture the vacant WWF World Women's title. (Marc Mero tripped and held Sable's leg for the pinfall.)

Also on the same show, X-Pac (Sean Waltman) pinned D-Lo Brown for the WWF European heavyweight belt at 4:49.

• ***September 27, 1998 Hamilton, Ontario, Canada—WWF Breakdown pay-per-view:*** Kane & Undertaker double chokeslammed and pinned WWF World champion Steve Austin.

• ***September 28, 1998 Detroit, Michigan—WWF Raw is War/War Zone):*** Vince McMahon declared the WWF World title vacant. The belt will be awarded to the winner of the Kane versus Undertaker match at the October 18, 1998 *Judgement Day* pay-per-view in Chicago, Illinois. The special guest referee will be "Stone Cold" Steve Austin.



Ric Flair brought tears to the eyes of his fans on his triumphant (and very emotional) return to WCW on September 14, 1998. photo: Craig Prendergast

GOLDBERG!

HIS AMAZING ROOKIE YEAR

compiled by Michael O'Hara

9/22/97 Salt Lake City, Utah: In his WCW debut, Bill Goldberg used a jackhammer to pin Hugh Morris.
9/29/97 Worcester, Massachusetts: Pinned The Barbarian.
10/10/97 Orlando, Florida: Pinned Manny Fernandez.
10/11/97 (WCW Main Event Taping): Pinned Roadblock.
10/13/97 Tampa, Florida: Pinned Scotty Riggs.
10/20/97 (WCW Nitro): Pinned Wrath.
10/25/97 (WCW Main Event Taping): Pinned Mike Anthony.
10/27/97 San Diego, California: No contest with Disco Inferno.
11/1/97 (WCW Main Event Taping): Pinned Renegade.
11/2/97 Norfolk, Virginia: Pinned Bobby Eaton.
11/7/97 (WCW Worldwide Taping): Pinned Mark Starr.
12/12/97 (WCW Worldwide Taping): Pinned Frankie Lancaster.
12/13/97 (Main Event Taping): Pinned Manny Fernandez.
12/15/97 Charlotte, North Carolina: No contest with Meng.
12/27/97 (WCW Sat. Night Taping): Pinned Renegade.
12/28/97 Washington, D.C. (Starrcade): Beat Steve McMichael.
12/29/97 Baltimore, Maryland: Pinned Glacier.
1/5/98 Atlanta, Georgia: Pinned Stevie Ray.
1/8/98 Daytona Beach, Florida: Pinned Steve McMichael.
1/10/98 (WCW Sat. Night Taping): Pinned Barry Horowitz.
1/12/98 Jacksonville, Florida: Pinned Jerry Flynn.
1/22/98 (WCW Thunder): Pinned Kendall Windham.
1/24/98 (WCW Sat. Night Taping): Pinned Mike Talbert.
1/26/98 Ft. Wayne, Indiana: Pinned Brad Armstrong.
1/29/98 Memphis, Tennessee: Pinned Yuji Nagata.
1/31/98 (WCW Sat. Night Taping): Pinned Meng.
2/2/98 San Antonio, Texas: Pinned Mark Starr.
2/5/98 Beaumont, Texas: Pinned Jim Powers.
2/7/98 (WCW Sat. Night Taping): Pinned Disco Inferno.
2/9/98 El Paso, Texas: Pinned Steve Regal.
2/12/98 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: Pinned Hugh Morris.
2/16/98 Tampa, Florida: Pinned Glacier.
2/19/98 Birmingham, Alabama: Pinned Dave Finley.
2/21/98 (WCW Sat. Night Taping): Pinned Jerry Flynn.
2/22/98 San Francisco, Cal. (SuperBrawl): Beat Brad Armstrong.
2/26/98 Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Pinned Rick Fuller.
3/2/98 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Pinned Sick Boy.
3/5/98 Columbus, Ohio: Pinned Vincent.
3/6/98 (WCW Worldwide Taping): Pinned Jerry Flynn.
3/9/98 Winston-Salem, North Carolina: Pinned Barry Darsow.
3/16/98 Daytona Beach, Florida: Pinned Lodi.
3/19/98 (WCW Thunder): Pinned Disco Inferno.
3/23/98 (WCW Nitro): Pinned Renegade.
3/26/98 (WCW Thunder): Pinned Wayne Bloom.
3/27/98 (WCW Worldwide Taping): Pinned Johnny Swinger.
3/28/98 Detroit, Michigan: Pinned Jerry Flynn.
3/29/98 Charlottesville, Virginia: Pinned Jerry Flynn.
3/30/98 (WCW Nitro): Pinned "Big Bubba" Ray Traylor.
4/6/98 (WCW Nitro): Pinned Hammer.
4/98 Orlando, Florida (TV Taping): Pinned Bobby Blaze.
4/11/98 Chattanooga, Tennessee: Pinned Dave Finley.
4/13/98 (WCW Nitro): Pinned Rocco Rock.
4/16/98 (WCW Thunder): Pinned Barry Darsow.
4/19/98 Denver, Colorado (Stampede ppv): Pinned Saturn.
4/20/98 Colorado Springs, Colorado (WCW Nitro): Pinned Raven for the United States title. (Bill's 75th victory!)
4/22/98 (WCW Thunder): Pinned Mike Enos.
4/27/98 (WCW Monday Nitro): Pinned Scott Norton.
4/28/98 (WCW Tuesday Nitro): Pinned Jerry Flynn.
5/6/98 Des Moines, Iowa: Pinned Saturn.
5/9/98 Wichita, Kansas: Pinned Saturn.
5/11/98 (WCW Monday Nitro): Pinned Len Denton.
5/14/98 (WCW Thunder): Pinned Sick Boy.
5/15/98 Bangor, Maine: Pinned Saturn.
5/16/98 (WCW Sat. Night Taping): Pinned Yuji Nagata.
5/17/98 Worcester, Mass. (Slamboree ppv): Pinned Saturn.
5/18/98 (WCW Nitro): Pinned Glacier.
5/23/98 (WCW Worldwide TV): Pinned Bobby Blaze.
5/25/98 (WCW Nitro): Pinned Johnny Attitude.
5/26/98 Memphis, Tennessee: Pinned Saturn.
5/27/98 Nashville, Tennessee (Thunder): Beat Barry Horowitz.
6/1/98 Washington, D.C. (WCW Nitro): Pinned La Parka.
6/4/98 Peoria, Illinois (Thunder): Pinned Hugh Morris.
6/6/98 Ft. Wayne, Indiana: Pinned Saturn.
6/7/98 Grand Rapids, Michigan: Pinned Saturn.
6/8/98 Long Island, New York (Nitro): Pinned Chavo Guerrero.
6/9/98 Saginaw, Michigan: Pinned Raven. (100th victory!)
6/11/98 Buffalo, New York (Thunder/no TV): Pinned Konnan.
6/12/98 Erie, Pennsylvania: Pinned Konnan.
6/13/98 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: Pinned Sting!
6/14/98 Baltimore, Md. (Great Amer. Bash): Pinned Konnan.
6/18/98 (WCW Thunder): Pinned Reese.
6/22/98 Jacksonville, Florida (Nitro): Pinned Rick Fuller.
6/29/98 (WCW Nitro): Pinned Glacier.
7/6/98 Atlanta, Georgia (WCW Nitro): Pinned Scott Hall and went on to pin Hulk Hogan for the World title at 8:11!
7/8/98 (WCW Thunder): Pinned Scott Hall.
7/10/98 Los Angeles, California: Pinned Curt Hennig.
7/98 Orlando, Florida (TV Taping): Pinned Scott Hall.
7/12/98 San Diego, California (Bash ppv): Pinned Hennig.
7/13/98 Las Vegas, Nevada (Nitro): Pinned Curt Hennig.
7/18/98 Spokane, Washington: Pinned Curt Hennig.
7/19/98 Yakima, Washington: Pinned Curt Hennig.
7/20/98 Salt Lake City, Utah (dark match): Pinned Giant.
7/21/98 Sacramento, California: Pinned Curt Hennig.
7/26/98 New York City, New York: Pinned Curt Hennig.
7/27/98 San Antonio, Texas (Nitro): Pinned Brian Adams. Goldberg also pinned The Giant (dark match/not taped for TV).
8/7/98 (WCW Thunder dark match): Pinned The Giant.
8/8/98 Sturgis, South Dakota (Road Wild): Won the battle royal.
8/10/98 Rapid City, South Dakota (Nitro): Pinned Meng.
8/17/98 Hartford, Connecticut (Nitro): Beat Giant–DQ.
8/24/98 Chicago, Illinois (Nitro): Goldberg & Kevin Nash beat Hulk Hogan & The Giant. (Bill pinned interfering Curt Hennig.)
8/31/98 Miami, Florida (WCW Nitro): Pinned Al Greene.
9/7/98 Pensacola, Florida (WCW Nitro): Pinned Scott Putski.
9/10/98 Lexington, Kentucky (Thunder): Pinned Rick Fuller.
9/14/98 Greenville, South Carolina (WCW Nitro): Pinned Sting for his 144th victory! ***NWW***

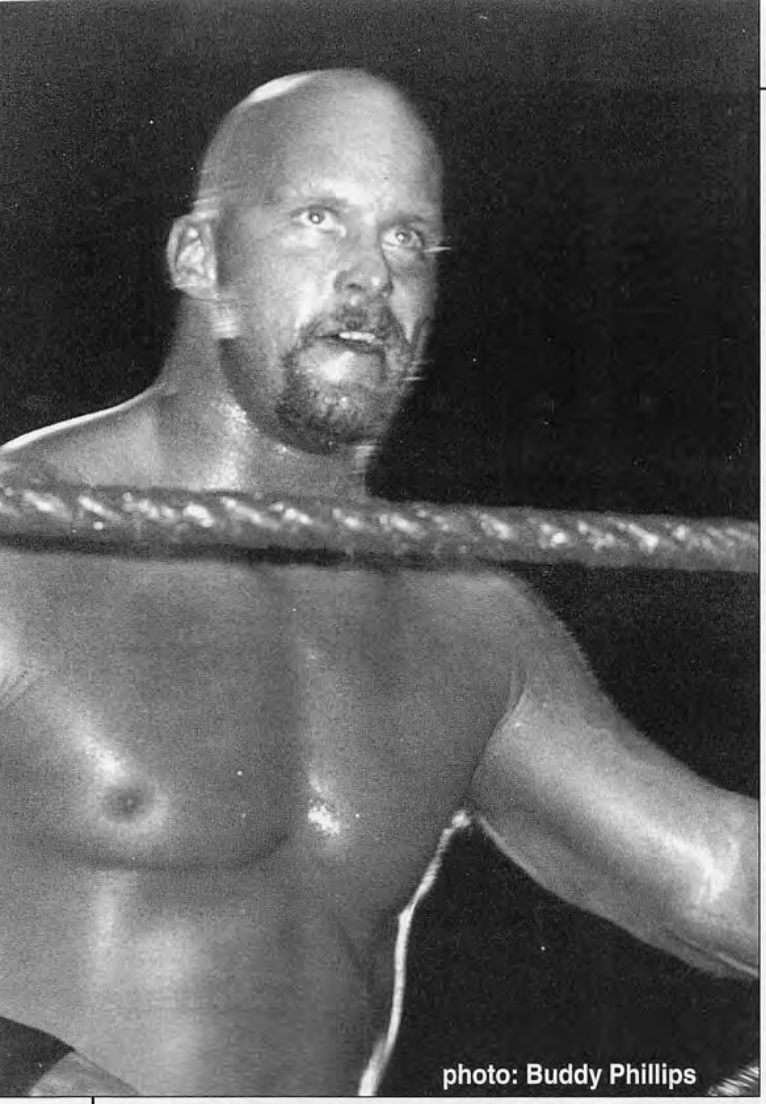


photo: Buddy Phillips

With credentials as genuine tough guys, UFC's Ken Shamrock & "Brawler" Bart Gunn have emerged as...

AUSTIN'S DEADLY REALITY CHECK!

WITH OR WITHOUT THE WORLD WRESTLING Federation heavyweight crown, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin has run roughshod over a vast-and-varied assortment of cartoonish competitors. While the likes of Mankind/Dude Love, "Brother" Kane, and The Undertaker are not to be dismissed as ring hacks, the very nature of their gimmicks leaves little to the imagination when it comes to being considered bona fide ring rivals. There is no denying their ring skills; however, portraying the crazed, the dead or the undead (but then again, aren't we all?), certainly presents limitations to their being taken seriously.

The silliness of the grapplin' ghouls have worked to Steve Austin's advantage as he is now perceived as a genuine "tough guy." This one-of-a-kind wrestler, devoid of any gimmicks and glitz, must now prepare for what looms on the horizon—Ken Shamrock and Bart Gunn—who are destined to threaten Stone Cold's claim to being the Federation's "Real McCoy."

Ken Shamrock has effortlessly made the transition from the Ultimate Fighting contests to the "sports exhibition" world of the mat wars without batting an eye. Much like Austin, he comes to the ring sans sparkling robes and outlandish affectations, but he has procured something Austin has not—genuine credentials. While Steve can boast of being a tough "s.o.b.," Ken has worked outside the constraints of pro-mat mayhem. In other words, he has real credentials as an unstoppable athlete.

Meanwhile, working within the confines of rasslin' and almost in spite of shortsighted promoters, Bart Gunn has been

by Michael O'Hara

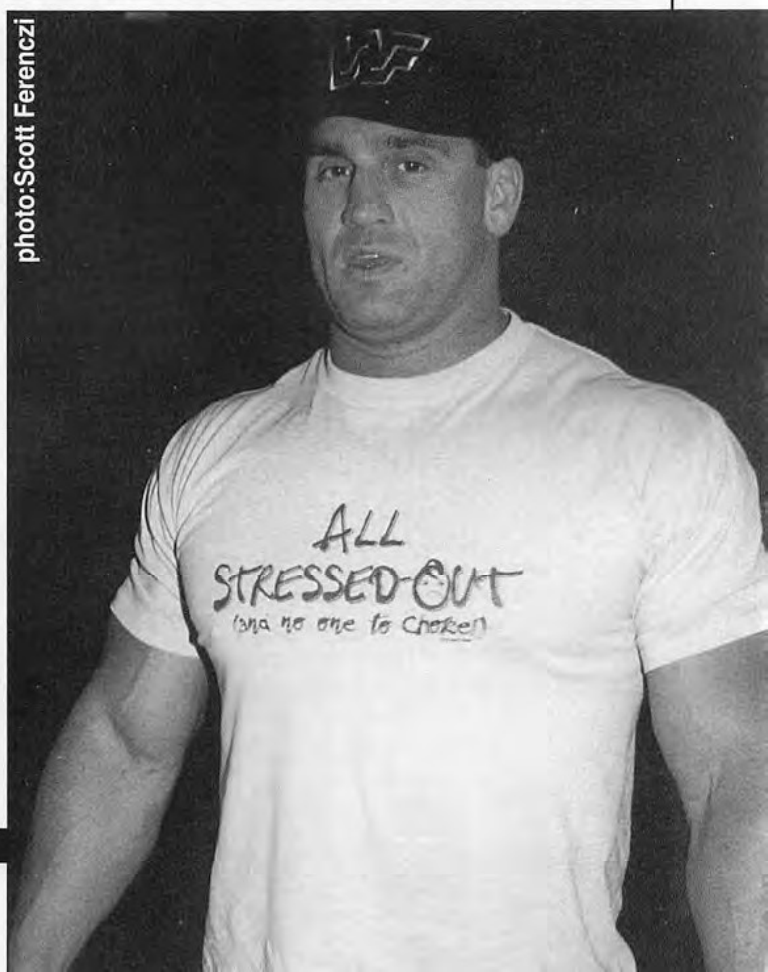


photo:Scott Ferenczi

photo: Craig Prendergast

able to make an equal claim to respect and adulation as a no-nonsense grappling gladiator. The *Brawl for All* elimination tournament (the WWF's equivalent of a tough-man contest) created a serendipitous window of opportunity for Bart, who made good on his situation by unceremoniously cleaning the clocks of his tag-team partner Bob "Spark Plug" Holly, Kama Mustafa, Justin "Hawk" Bradshaw, and especially Steve "Dr. Death" Williams, a most-formidable American brawler who has dominated Japanese rings for well over a decade.

Having secured a reputation as a knock-out specialist, you won't see many of the WWF's top-seeded main eventers lining up to take Bart on in any future *Brawl for All* tourneys, and I'm sure that includes "Stone Cold" Steve!

Shamrock and Gunn have earned their spots as the genuine articles—they are men who can separate the fantasy from the reality. As Austin plows through the latest slew of zombies, porn stars, gen-x jobbers, and perennial mad men, he will eventually have to come to terms with Ken Shamrock and Bart Gunn—whether he likes it or not.

As Steve inches closer to facing this deadly reality check, he must tread carefully. This is not an average pair of fighting foes. He has more to lose than to gain by being manhandled by either of these serious ring ruffians.

For Gunn and Shamrock there is an equal danger of losing the respect of peers and mat enthusiasts because of a poor showing in a main-event setting. They've worked long and hard to garner impressive reputations, but can they follow through at the mountaintop and accept the responsibility of being draws for a multimillion-dollar industry?

Gimmicks may come and grudge feuds may go, but reputations live on long after a wrestler has traveled to fresher territories. Whoever stands triumphant in the end is unknown, but one thing is certain, the fans are going to be the real winners in this battle for supremacy. ***NWW***

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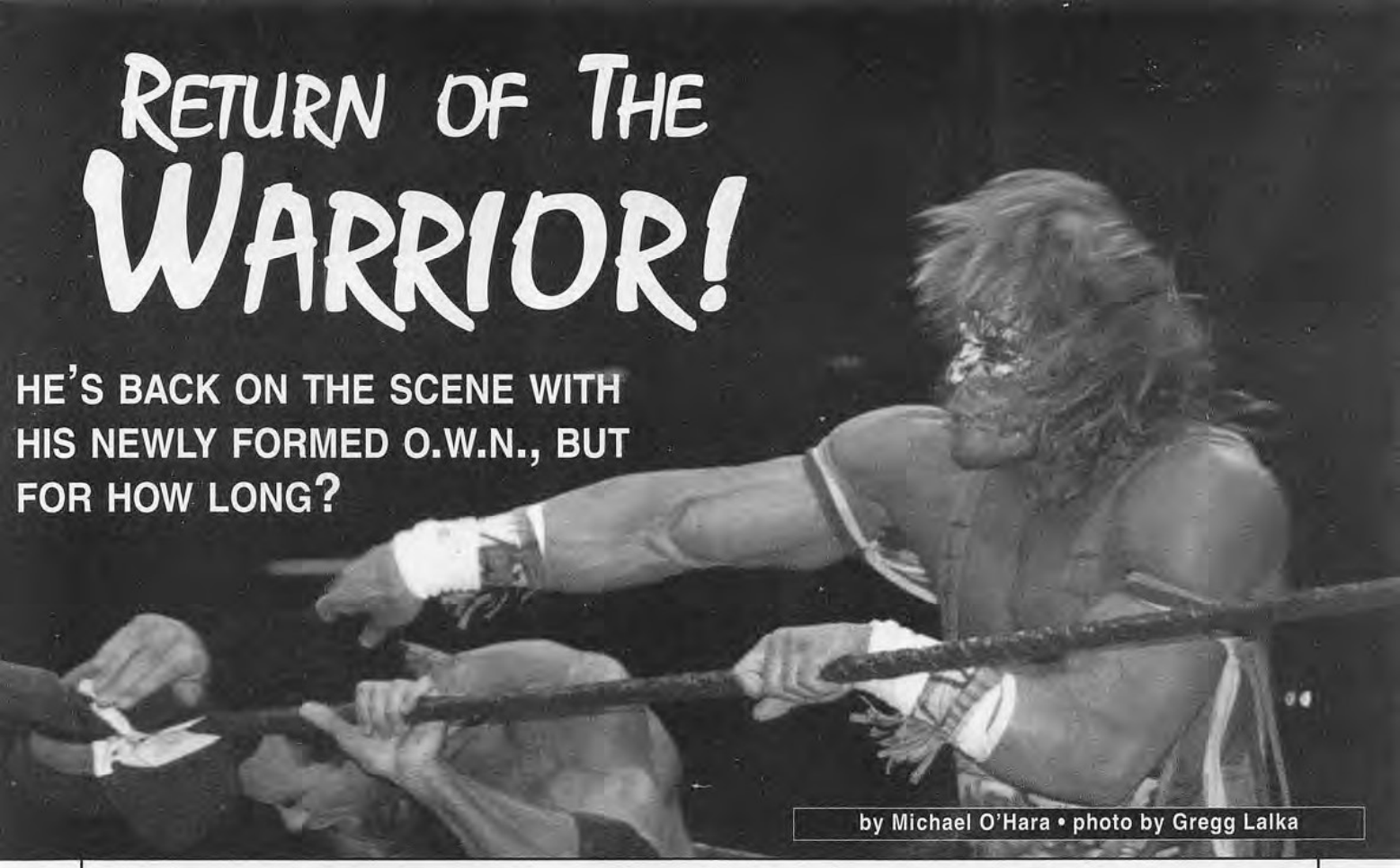
RETURN OF THE WARRIOR!

HE'S BACK ON THE SCENE WITH HIS NEWLY FORMED O.W.N., BUT FOR HOW LONG?



by Michael O'Hara • photo by Gregg Lalka

NWW Dossier: The Ultimate Warrior

real name: James Brian Hellwig
other ring aliases: The Dingo Warrior (WCCW • Dallas, Texas)
tag-team affiliation:

- Power Team U.S.A., which also consisted of Glory (Garland Donohue), Commando (Mark Miller), and Flash (Steve Borden, who now wrestles as Sting in WCW).
- The Bladerunners with Sting (Steve Borden) circa 1985 (USWA/Tennessee & UWF/Mid-South)
- In Fort Worth, Texas, The Dingo Warrior & Lance von Erich (Rocky Vaughn) captured the American tag-team titles on November 17, 1986.

debut: 1984, as a member of the 4-man Power Team U.S.A.
trainer: Red Bastein **birthday:** June 16
educational background:
Studied to be a chiropractor at Life Chiropractic College.
titles held:

- Defeated Bob Bradley for the WCCW Texas title in Fort Worth, Texas on February 2, 1987.
- Pinned The Honky Tonk Man and captured the WWF Intercontinental title on August 29, 1988.
- Regained the Intercontinental title from Rick Rude in East Rutherford, New Jersey on August 28, 1989.
- Pinned Hulk Hogan to win the WWF World heavyweight title before a crowd of 67,678 in Toronto, Canada on April 1, 1990.
- Because of the intense schedule of World title defenses, WWF President Jack Tunney stripped The Warrior of the Intercontinental title on April 2, 1990.

weirdest opponents:
Papa Shango (Chuck Wright) & Goldust (Dustin Runnels).

SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY, INEXPLICABLY, he's back! After a sabbatical of two years, The Warrior (James Hellwig) is picking up where he left off. The times have changed. Wrestlers have changed. Even the promotion has changed, but the painted powerhouse remains unaffected and stands fast to his convictions. He has been and apparently will always be grappledom's resident superhero.

On August 17, 1998 in Hartford, Connecticut, Warrior invaded the *WCW Monday Nitro* cable telecast and launched into a lengthy (and somewhat convoluted) soliloquy directed squarely at "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan, the fallen idol of the ring. By the time wrestling's prodigal son carried his distinct diatribe to its eventual conclusion, the fans were eager in their anticipation to witness a showdown between the two most popular stars of the WWF's golden era of the 1980s.

With Warrior in one corner of the WCW ring and Hogan in the other, it seemed as if time itself had stood still. We were immediately swept back to April 1, 1990, a date on which 67,678 screaming, cheering fans witnessed history. On that fateful night in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, during *Wrestlemania VI*, The Ultimate One ascended to the mountaintop by virtue of a decisive pinfall victory over The Hulkster.

More than eight years have gone by, and with thousands of fans at the arena and millions viewing at home, the rubber match to end all rubber matches was within our grasp, but something had changed. Neither man wore the gold, the symbol of excellence, now resting around the waist of a capable younger man named Bill Goldberg.

photo: Don Laible

When these legends eventually do collide, it will be more a matter of personal pride as opposed to actual ring supremacy. The issue of championship belts has become the major concern of the next generation. The world of wrestling now belongs to them—Goldberg, The Giant, and Chris Jericho—as they travel the road once taken by Hogan, The Ultimate One, and Roddy Piper.

On today's wrestling landscape, the promoters have decreed the individual must give way to the group. The organization must dominate—whether it is NWO Hollywood, NWO Wolfpack, or even The Warrior's new OWN. The emphasis is on gang-affiliation and building their appeal as opposed to showcasing individual stars.

We've seen Hogan, Sting, and Nash go from being genuine individual draws to becoming members of popular groups. We've seen unique styles and identifiable character traits fuse into one persona. (Have you noticed how every NWO player now uses the same phrases "Too Sweet" and "For Life"?)

Wrestlers constantly "jump ship," but the corporate, group identity will survive. The grappling game has become bigger than its stars, and the NWO will continue with or without its founding members. It doesn't matter anymore.

The reality of professional wrestling's metamorphosis into a self-styled gang war has not yet been accepted by The Warrior. Perhaps he's in denial, but sooner or later, he'll come to the realization that he's a new man in a strange land.

The Warrior has entered into uncharted waters, and in order for him to survive in the squared circle, he'll have to learn to swim with the pack. Because, as we all have seen in recent months, swimming against the tide will "ultimately" get him nowhere. ***NWW***

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Greg Valentine (G) - $25
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Koko B. Ware (with Frankie) - $35

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Bob Orton (mint) - $75
Gene Okerlund (mint) - $55
Ken Patera (mint) - $100
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A Conversation With

"LUSCIOUS" JOHNNY VALIANT

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE FUNNY!

NW: WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO THESE DAYS, JOHNNY?
JV: I'm climbing up the ladder of acting in New York City. I go on auditions for various parts every week. My acting lessons take place in Carnegie Hall.
NW: The Valiant Brothers still remain synonymous with wrestling championships. You are considered one of the all-time greatest tag teams to this day.
JV: That's kind of you to say. As the records show, I was coholder of the World Wide Wrestling Federation tag-team title twice. The first time was with "Handsome" Jimmy Valiant in 1974; the second time was with "Gentleman" Jerry Valiant in 1979.

When I worked with the American Wrestling Association, I managed Hulk Hogan for awhile, and, of course, later managed Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake, Greg "The Hammer" Valentine, and the late Dino Bravo in the WWF. In 1985, I guided Beefcake and Valentine to the WWF tag belts.

Participating in three Wrestlemanias has also been something I look fondly back on in my ring career.
NW: Has your notoriety in wrestling followed you into the movie business?
JV: Oh, yes. Much of what I've done in the ring is brought to my attention by not only wrestling fans but also the actors I sit down and chat with on the set. Even directors and producers who were once big wrestling fans remind me of certain matches I was involved in; they remember my matches in far more detail than I do!
NW: What is your view on today's pro-wrestling scene?
JV: For the fans, wrestling has never been better, particularly on Monday night when *NITRO* and *RAW* are on TV.

photo: Tony Valotta

There are some great matches and well-conditioned wrestlers as well; however, I don't think the success of the first two Wrestlemanias will ever happen again. In 1985 and '86 wrestling's popularity was at its peak.

NW: When did you break into professional wrestling?
JV: Bruno Sammartino and the Original Sheik were responsible for bringing me into the ranks back in 1967.

I trained in Williamston, Michigan.

interview by Don Laible

The Valiant Brothers—"Luscious" Johnny (left) and "Handsome" Jimmy (right)—during their 1974 WWWF tag-team title reign. photo: Don Laible

"Kangaroo" Al Costello was my primary trainer on a grass-roots level. Let's see, I was on the ring crew for awhile, then I refereed, and eventually I was somebody with a pulse that could be tossed around in the ring. *[Laughs]*

NW: When did you have your first match?

JV: My first match was in September 1967 in Dayton, Ohio against a guy named Tom Jones. I wrestled under the name of Johnny Sullivan then.

NW: Were you a fan of pro wrestling as a boy growing up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania?

JV: Yes, that's what lit the fire under me. I loved wrestling. When I was 12 years old, I told myself this is what I wanted to do with my life. Watching "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers on TV every Saturday night totally captivated my attention. When I saw Johnny Valentine, I was in awe of him, and I wanted to be just like him.

NW: But what was it about wrestling that made you pursue it as a career?

JV: Let me first say that I was a fan of baseball, football, and basketball. I also loved the movies, but when I saw Buddy Rogers and Johnny Valentine on television, lights went on in my head, and I knew that was the direction I was meant to go.

I knew there would come a time when I'd meet these guys and learn what it takes to be a great pro wrestler. Later on, I was fortunate to wrestle Johnny, and, in 1991, at a fans convention in Queens, New York City, I finally met Buddy. I was in awe of him. He knew my name and asked me to sit down next to him. Wow, that totally blew me away!

NW: Are you in awe of your place in wrestling history?

"Killer" Kowalski "valiantly" tried to keep Johnny (left) and Don Muraco (right) separated prior to their 1989 Boston match. photo: Don Laible

JV: No, not at all. I have been humbled many, many times in my life. When I was on TV or in the arenas trying to cause riots, I always did what I thought the fans wanted to see. I believe that in order to be successful at what you do you must be a fan of it, too.

NW: Where did you wrestle in your rookie years?

JV: I wrestled throughout Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. From there I went to work for promoter Nick Gulas in Nashville, Tennessee. Then I went to Florida, Los Angeles, and, eventually, the WWWF.

NW: How did you and "Handsome"

On October 11, 1997, Johnny became a proud recipient of the prestigious Cauliflower Alley Club award. Captain Lou Albano was on hand to some the credit. photo: Don Laible

Jimmy Valiant come together as a team?
JV: I was wrestling in Indianapolis and met up with Bobby Heenan. He spoke to wrestler Dick the Bruiser, who was also the promoter in Indiana, about teaming me up with Jimmy. I changed my name from Sullivan to Valiant, and Heenan managed us. That's how the Valiants were born.

I had my first match in 1967, so I had earned my degree from the school of hard knocks by the mid-70s, and I was prepared to be a Valiant brother. This was my first juncture at being featured as a wrestler with main-event status. Dick the Bruiser passed the football to me and I ran with it—with Jimmy doing the blocking for me all the way.
NW: It sounds like you had a special relationship with Dick the Bruiser.
JV: Dick made sure I was in the right matches, many of which were with him. My first time challenging Dick in the ring came when I was a kid fresh out of Nick Gulas's territory in Tennessee. I drove all the way from Nashville to St. Louis, Missouri in a beat-up old car.

When I was lacing up my boots in the locker room at the Chase Hotel, which was where the matches were being held, someone came up to me and said I'd be up against the Bruiser on TV. He tore me apart in the ring. I was hurt pretty badly and received sutures in my head, but that was his way of testing me. Fortunately, I passed the test by not dropping dead after the bout. Characters like the Bruiser don't exist in wrestling today.
NW: What was the first match you had as the Valiant Brothers?
JV: It was against Bruno Sammartino and Dick the Bruiser, and we won! How's that for a debut!
NW: How did "Gentleman" Jerry Valiant come about?
JV: When Jimmy and I were wrestling for the WWWF, Jimmy became very ill and was unable to perform for awhile. I came up with the idea of using Jerry Valiant to replace Jimmy while he was out of commission. We knew Jerry from the Indiana circuit and he fit in perfectly with the team.
NW: When was your last match with Jimmy?
JV: It was in the mid-1970s in the WWWF. Lou Albano, Jerry, Jimmy, and I participated in a series of six-man and four-man tag matches. Vince McMahon Sr. said we were involved in the first four-man tag match ever held in New York City's Madison Square Garden.
NW: Why did you and Jimmy Valiant break up a successful tag team?
JV: Jimmy wanted to go to Tennessee where Jerry Lawler was going to book him in solo main-event matches, so we just agreed to end our relationship.
NW: Are you proud of being a wrestler?
JV: Yes, I am. Would I do it over again? I don't think so. Being away from home is a tremendous price to pay. When I was a rookie, being on the road was the high price you had to pay to succeed.

When I was managing in the WWF, there were times when I was away 28 out of 30 days in the same month! Fortunately for me, I have an excellent rapport with my two sons today. One is a tennis pro in Pittsburgh. The other lives in San Diego. Both have little girls, so I'm a happy grandfather. Sadly, my children saw me try to hold on to my marriage with their mother, but unfortunately it had run its course.

photo: Craig Prendergast

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photo: Craig Prendergast

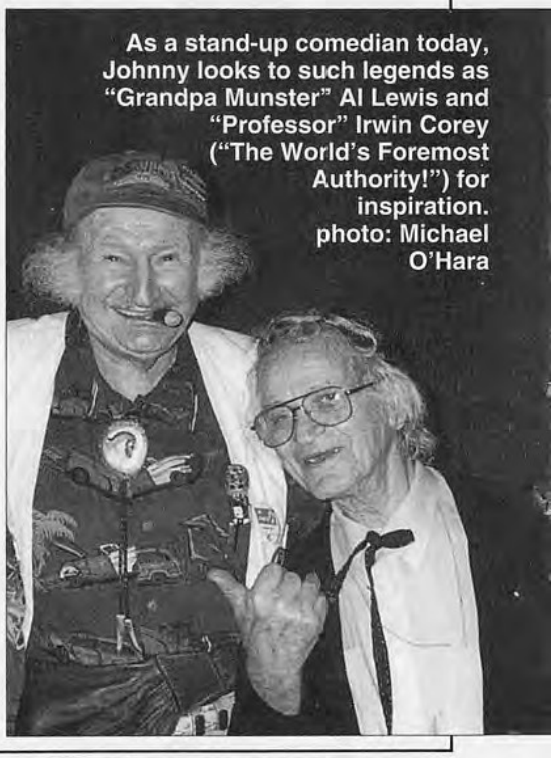
NW: Not too many people are able to live out their dreams as you have.
JV: As the old saying goes, if you have an itch, you must scratch it. And I certainly had the itch as a youngster growing up in Pittsburgh. I scratched that itch for nearly 30 years!
NW: You later came back to the WWF as a manager.
JV: Yes, Vince McMahon Jr. called me about managing Brutus Beefcake, who was Hogan's childhood friend from Tampa. I had been working independent shows as a solo and had also managed Hulk Hogan for six months in Verne Gagne's AWA.

Anyway, when Hogan went to the WWF, he asked McMahon to bring me in as manager for Brutus. I managed him for a couple of years, and later he teamed up with Greg Valentine. I then managed them, and they won the tag titles from Barry Windham and Mike Rotunda.

NW: Who else did you manage?
JV: I managed the Destruction Crew in the AWA, who were also tag champions. I also managed Demolition briefly.
NW: When did you leave the WWF?
JV: Well, after Beefcake and Valentine were defeated by the Bulldogs at Wrestlemania, Dino Bravo joined forces with Valentine. I managed them until Valentine decided he didn't want to work as a tag team anymore. At that point in time, I was left out in the cold.
NW: Of all the people you have come in contact with in wrestling, which wrestlers did you admire the most and why?
JV: I admired Nick Bockwinkle and Buddy Rogers very much. These men were larger than life to a young impressionable rookie like me. Nick always looked like someone important in and out of the ring. I think he's a classy man.
NW: When did you get involved with comedy?
JV: I was introduced to it in the late 1980s by a friend who started a comedy club in Long Island. He thought I would be good at it. It was very much like breaking into wrestling. I was used to being in front of an audience, so I had no fears about performing.
NW: Who are some of your favorite comedians?
JV: I really like Professor Irwin Corey who performs in an old tuxedo, sneakers, and messy hair. I did a show with him once and he had the audience eating out of the palm of his hand for over an hour. As a comedian, he impressed and influenced me immensely. He's the greatest!

I also like Don Rickles a lot, too. I did a movie with him called *Innocent Blood*. It was filmed in Pittsburgh, my hometown, and I had a very small role, but being around Rickles and Robert Loggia was a great inspiration to me.

Another movie I was involved in was *Hoffa,* which starred Jack Nicholson and was directed by Danny DeVito.
NW: What kind of material do you perform during your stand-up routine?
JV: I am introduced as "Luscious" Johnny Valiant, former pro wrestler and manager. I do wrestling material and/or straight material, depending on the audience. I give them what they want.
NW: Do you have any funny memories from your years in the ring?
JV: Yes, and every time I tell this story, "Captain" Lou Albano threatens to never speak to me again, so, of course, I have



As a stand-up comedian today, Johnny looks to such legends as "Grandpa Munster" Al Lewis and "Professor" Irwin Corey ("The World's Foremost Authority!") for inspiration. photo: Michael O'Hara

photo: Craig Prendergast

to tell you this one. It involves Lou wrestling against "Killer" Kowalski. The match took place years ago in Washington, D.C. for Capitol Wrestling, which was run by Vince McMahon Sr.

Anyway, it was a TV taping and the guy who was supposed to wrestle Kowalski did not show up for some reason. Lou Albano, who was not booked on the show, had just finished a huge meal at an all-you-can-eat seafood buffet across the street. At the last minute, Lou was asked to step in as a substitute. Albano agreed, hoping Kowalski would take it easy on him.

Well, Albano found himself at a great disadvantage, and when Kowalski jumped off the top rope on to Lou's stomach, Albano had a big accident.

Lou was very embarrassed. He rushed back to the dressing room and headed straight into the shower to clean himself up. I guess I'm off Lou's Christmas list again this year. *[Laughs]*

NW: Do you still wrestle?

JV: I still wrestle occasionally, but I don't see a big future in it for me at this time. I like having control over my destiny.

NW: What do you think is the future of pro wrestling?

JV: Who knows? Maybe it'll come back to the way it was run years ago—local television and promotions.

NW: Thank you for sharing your memories with us, Johnny. We look forward to seeing you in the movies.

JV: You're welcome. I hope that Hollywood will use me more in the future. I'll keep climbing the ladder in films. I'm doing stand-up comedy in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Check me out sometime when I'm performing at one of the casinos. ***NWW***

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JERRY LYNN

AGAINST ALL ODDS, HE'S WINNING ON HIS OWN TERMS

NW: WHERE DID YOU GROW UP, JERRY?
JL: I'm from Minneapolis, Minnesota.
NW: Were you a wrestling fan as a kid?
JL: Oh, yes. I watched roller derby and Verne Gagne's AWA wrestling on the family TV every weekend. The Los Angeles Thunderbirds was my favorite roller-derby team.

In 1983, cable television became available in my area, and I watched the NWA and World Class from Dallas, Texas. The cable stations were filled with wrestling, so I watched everything.

Although I loved the sport so much as a kid, I never imagined that I would ever pursue a career in professional wrestling.
NW: Who were some of your other mat favorites from the American Wrestling Association?
JL: Let's see, Mad Dog Vachon was a favorite of mine. I enjoyed watching the Crusher work, and Ray "The Crippler" Stevens was another class act in and out of the ring. I had the opportunity to spend some time with him the summer before he passed away. Ray had an incredible mind for the pro-wrestling business.
NW: How old are you?
JL: My birthday is June 12, 1963.
NW: What is your height and weight?
JL: I am 5 feet 10 inches and I weigh 200 pounds.
NW: What was the deciding factor that made you choose wrestling as your career?
JL: I met Soldat Ustinov before he joined the AWA and he introduced me to Eddie Sharkey, who trained a great many top names like Rick Rude and the Road Warriors. I told Eddie that I was fascinated with wrestling, but I thought I was too small to give it a try. Eddie

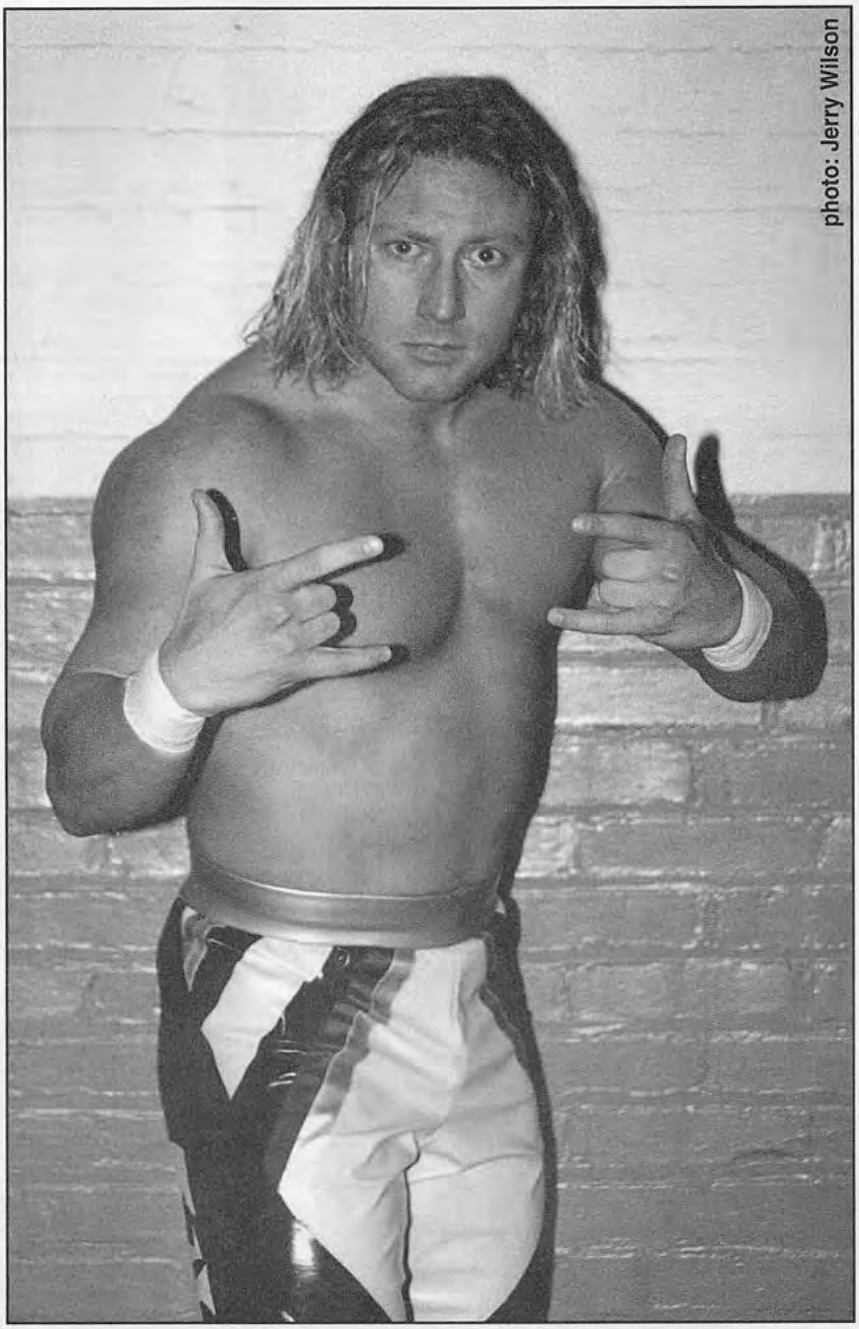
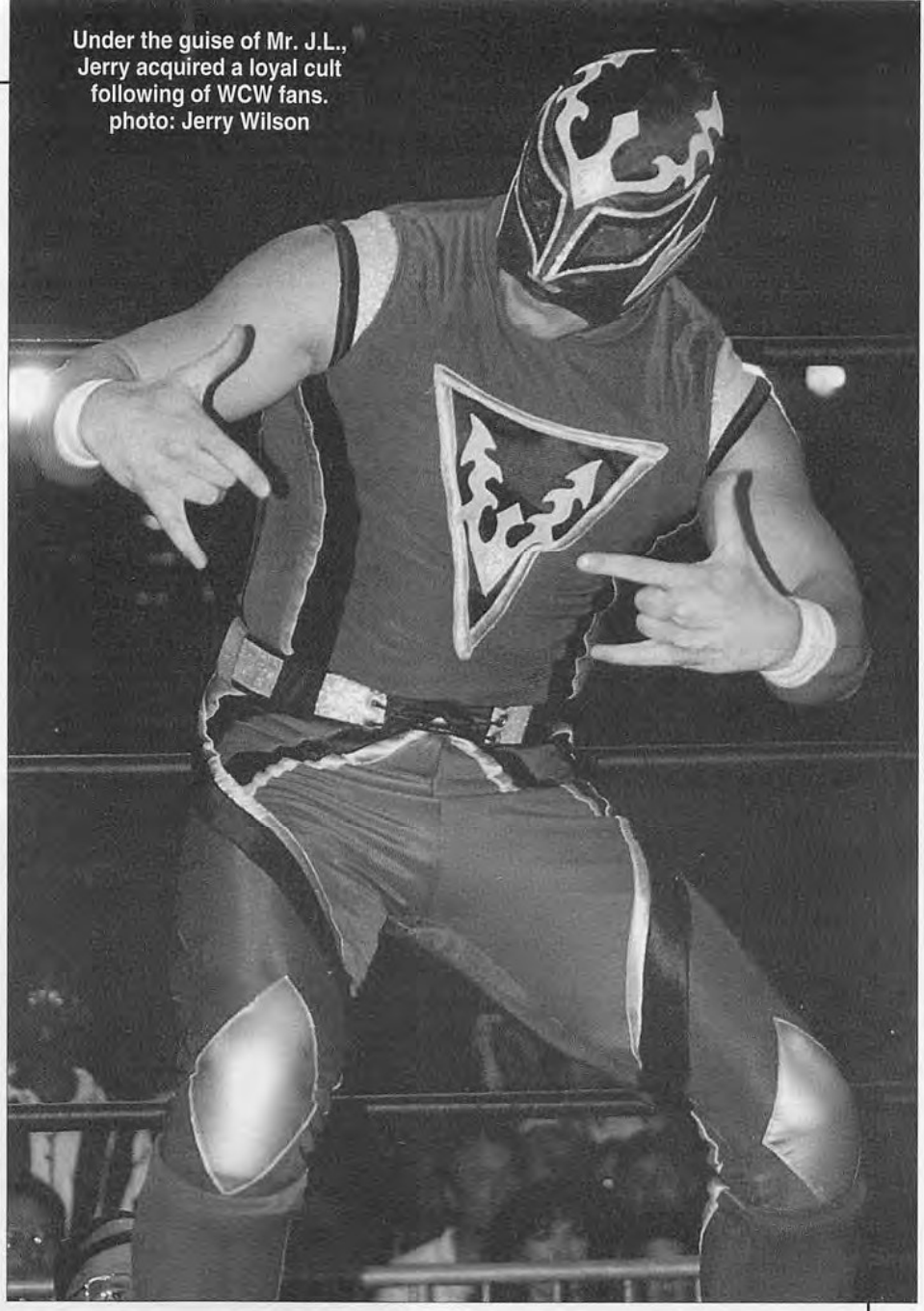


photo: Jerry Wilson

interview by Don Laible



Under the guise of Mr. J.L., Jerry acquired a loyal cult following of WCW fans. photo: Jerry Wilson

convinced me that talent was more important than size alone. Talent determines who makes the grade and who doesn't. In spite of his encouragement, I knew I wasn't ready to begin training yet. I was 25 years old at the time.

NW: When did you get involved with wrestling?

JL: After a couple of years of working out, I felt I was ready to begin my training. I contacted Brad Rheingans and signed up for his training camp in March 1988. Besides knowing all the ins and outs on the professional level, Brad was also an Olympic wrestler. I figured he knew more about the business than anyone I had come across, no offense to Eddie Sharkey, who is also a tremendous trainer and creator of champions.

NW: Do you remember your first wrestling match?

JL: It was a TV taping in 1988. I wrestled for an independent promotion called IWA in Minnesota. I had three matches that day. One of the tag matches involved The Terminators, which my partner and I lost. The last match was a six-man tag tussle. My opposition was Tom Zenk, Derrick Dukes, and Steve O.

I was very nervous that day, but it was a great learning experience for me. To this day I still get nervous when I leave the dressing room for the ring, and I continue to learn something new just about every time I wrestle, especially if it's against an opponent I've never faced in the ring before.

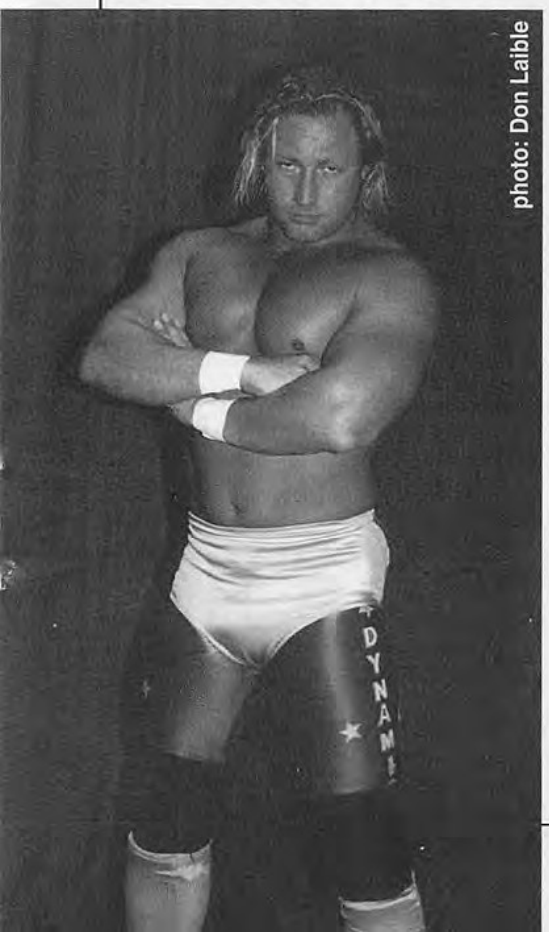


photo: Don Laible

NW: What do you think of the squared circle after wrestling for 10 years?

JL: I have many mixed emotions about it. People may not realize how competitive it is, but I've learned pro wrestling is a very cutthroat business. At the same time, I have no regrets. I have been able to travel the world, and I would never have had these opportunities and experiences if I hadn't become a wrestler.

NW: How did you get your first break with WCW?

JL: Brad Rheingans spoke on my behalf to Paul Orndorff, who works in WCW's front office. I had been wrestling for seven years at that point in time, and I had worked with the Global Wrestling Federation in Texas and the United States Wrestling Association down South.

I asked Brad for advice on getting my foot in the door with WCW. He told me to come up with a visual gimmick that would work for TV. I figured the kids would like me if I made up an outfit that was similar to what the Power Rangers wore. I put on a mask and billed myself as the Mysterious Mr. J.L.

NW: What are your memories of WCW?

JL: I was with WCW a little under two years. They put me under contract after a couple of months. During my time there, I broke my arm. It wasn't all that terrible or miserable, it just wasn't good for my career. The way WCW is run, you can't learn anything new.

photo: Don Laible

What makes wrestling the greatest sport in the world is that it takes strength, timing, balance, coordination, everything the other sports require, as well as one other important ingredient—psychology. That's why I'm in wrestling. I love the psychology of it, and this is what I wanted to learn.

In WCW, I felt my career was digressing. They were draining all the heart out of me.

NW: Which championships have you held?

JL: I held the GWF light-heavyweight title. I beat the "Lightning Kid" Sean Waltman (now known as X-Pac in the WWF) in the Global Dome on December 27, 1991. Originally, I lost to "The Kid" in the light-heavyweight tournament when Global just began its promotion on July 13, 1991. I also captured the Pro Wrestling America light-heavyweight belt, and "The Kid" and I wore the PWA tag belts in 1993.

NW: You joined ECW in September 1997. How do you like wrestling with this promotion?

JL: Joining ECW has been a rejuvenating experience for me. I have my drive and motivation back again. ECW has given me the opportunity to go into the ring and learn something new. There isn't any office politics to contend with as ECW appreciates wrestlers for their work and not just for who they know.

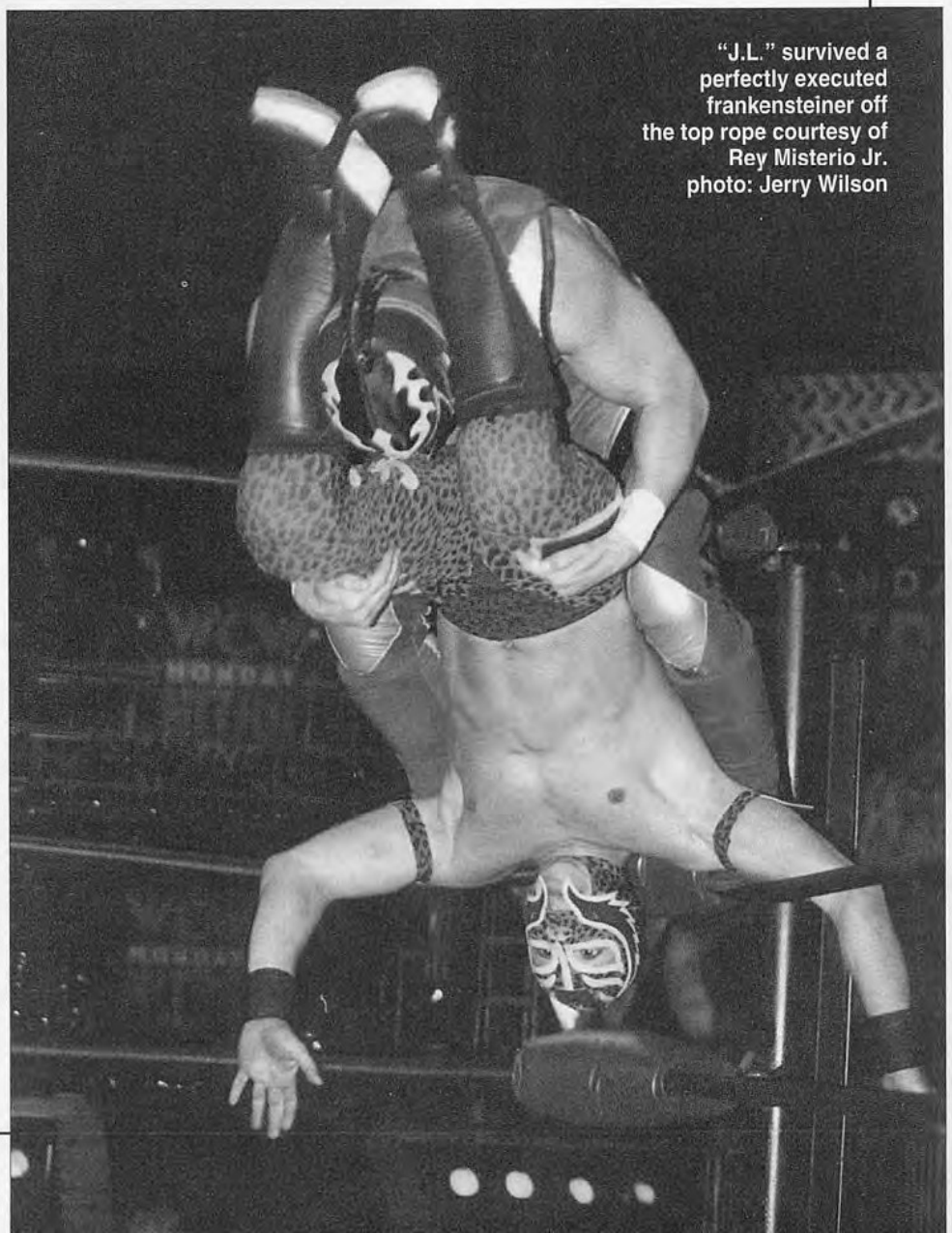
NW: What was it like working for GWF? You were with them from the very beginning.

JL: Global Wrestling Federation was a great promotion in the beginning, but then, in order for them to survive financially, the company began cutting back on their expenses, so they were unable to fly in the top stars anymore.

While I was with Global, I crossed paths with the late Eddie Gilbert. He eventually brought me into the USWA. Eddie saw something special in my work and gave me the opportunity to showcase my abilities. Eddie was one of wrestling's all-time greats, so this was an incredible compliment to me. I am forever grateful to him. I am also thankful to Terry Taylor in WCW. He also has a great knack for the wrestling business.

NW: As a wrestler, how has your personal life been affected by your constant traveling?

JL: Well, I'm divorced now. I think there was a little bit of jealousy from her



"J.L." survived a perfectly executed frankensteiner off the top rope courtesy of Rey Misterio Jr.
photo: Jerry Wilson

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photo: Jerry Wilson

end. The life of a professional wrestler is not as glamorous as many fans are inclined to think. There's a great deal of traveling, which requires married couples to be apart from one another for incredibly long stretches of time. It's hard to build a healthy marriage under these circumstances, especially if you add children into the mix. Because you're never there during all the important formative years, you become something of a novelty when you do come home.

Having said all of this, I must also say that wrestling is the kind of job you look forward to when you wake up in the morning. Many people in life are not fortunate enough to enjoy their work. When I'm on the road, I enjoy what I'm doing. I'm making decent money and having a good time. I believe all the wives and girlfriends are jealous because we have fun. They also get tired of us moaning and groaning about our physical aches and pains. Their answer to our complaints is to get another job, but it's not that cut and dry. Unless you've experienced it yourself, it's difficult to give an accurate account on the pluses and minuses of wrestling.

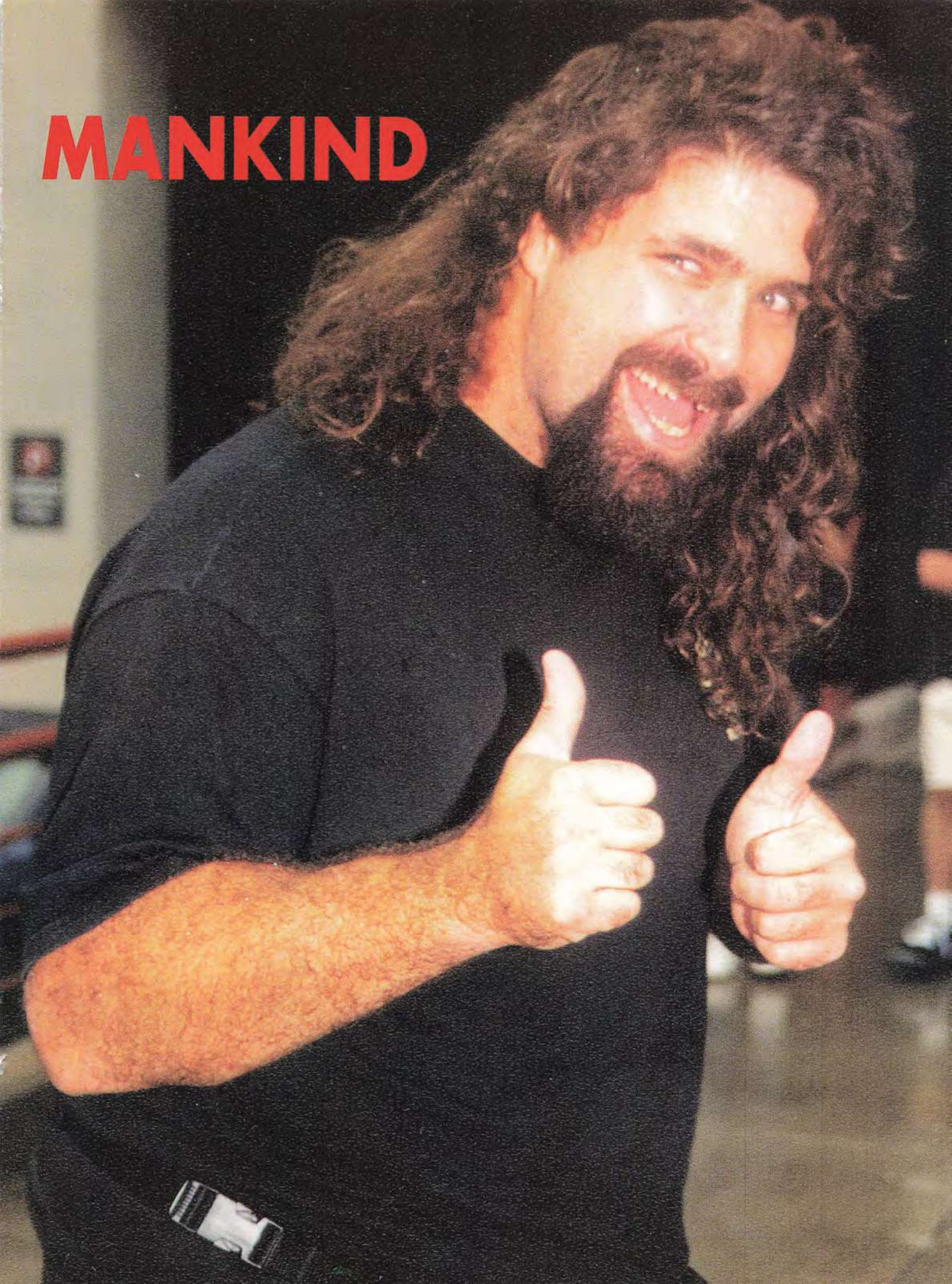
NW: Do you have any advice for aspiring pro wrestlers?

JL: Don't do it! *[Laughs]* Seriously, be the best athlete you can possibly be, and don't let the setbacks and business politics get you down.

NW: Thanks, Jerry, for being so open in this interview. Lots of luck to you in and out of the ring.

JL: It's always a pleasure to talk with people who like and respect professional wrestling. ***NWW***

MANKIND



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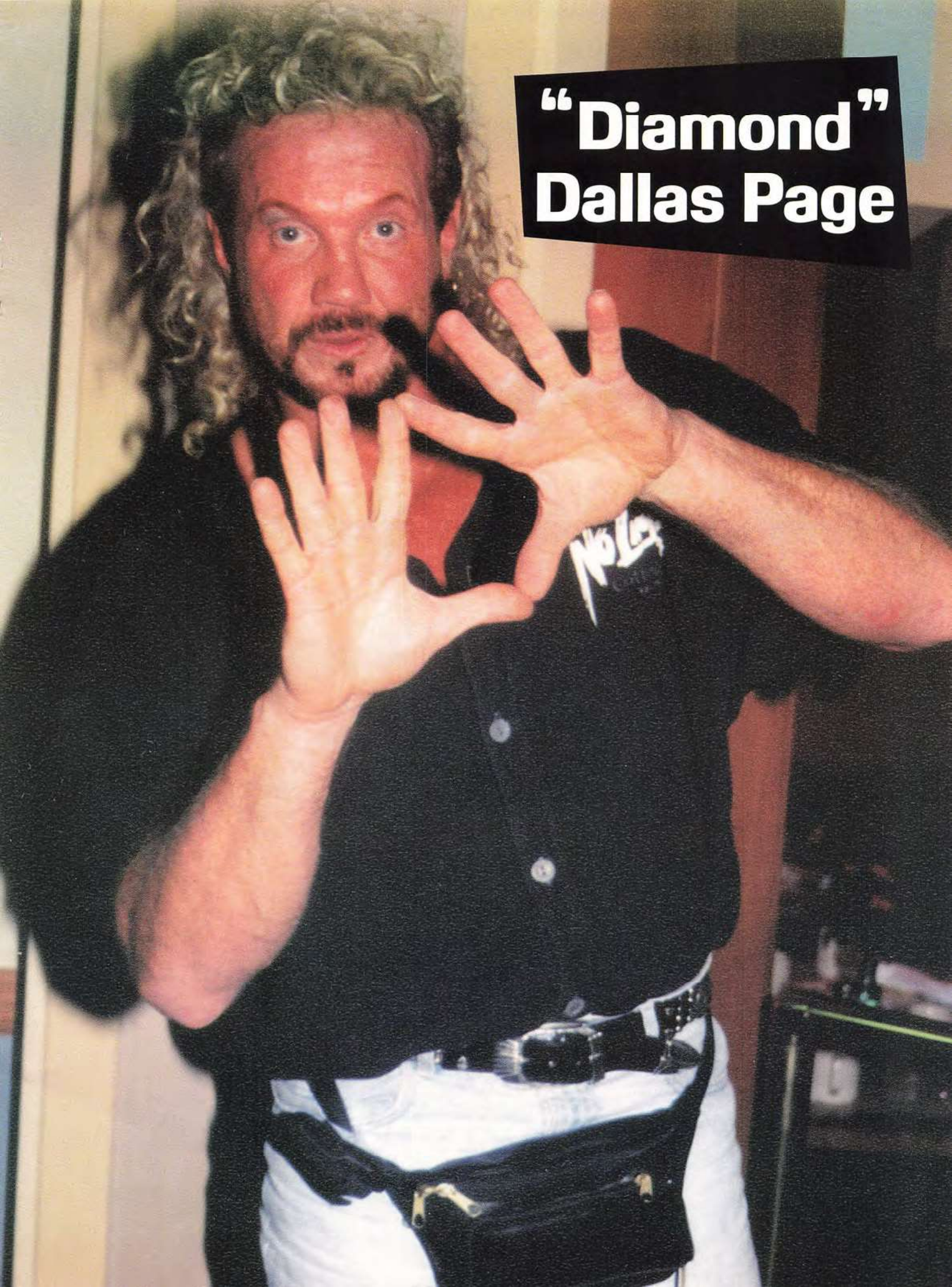
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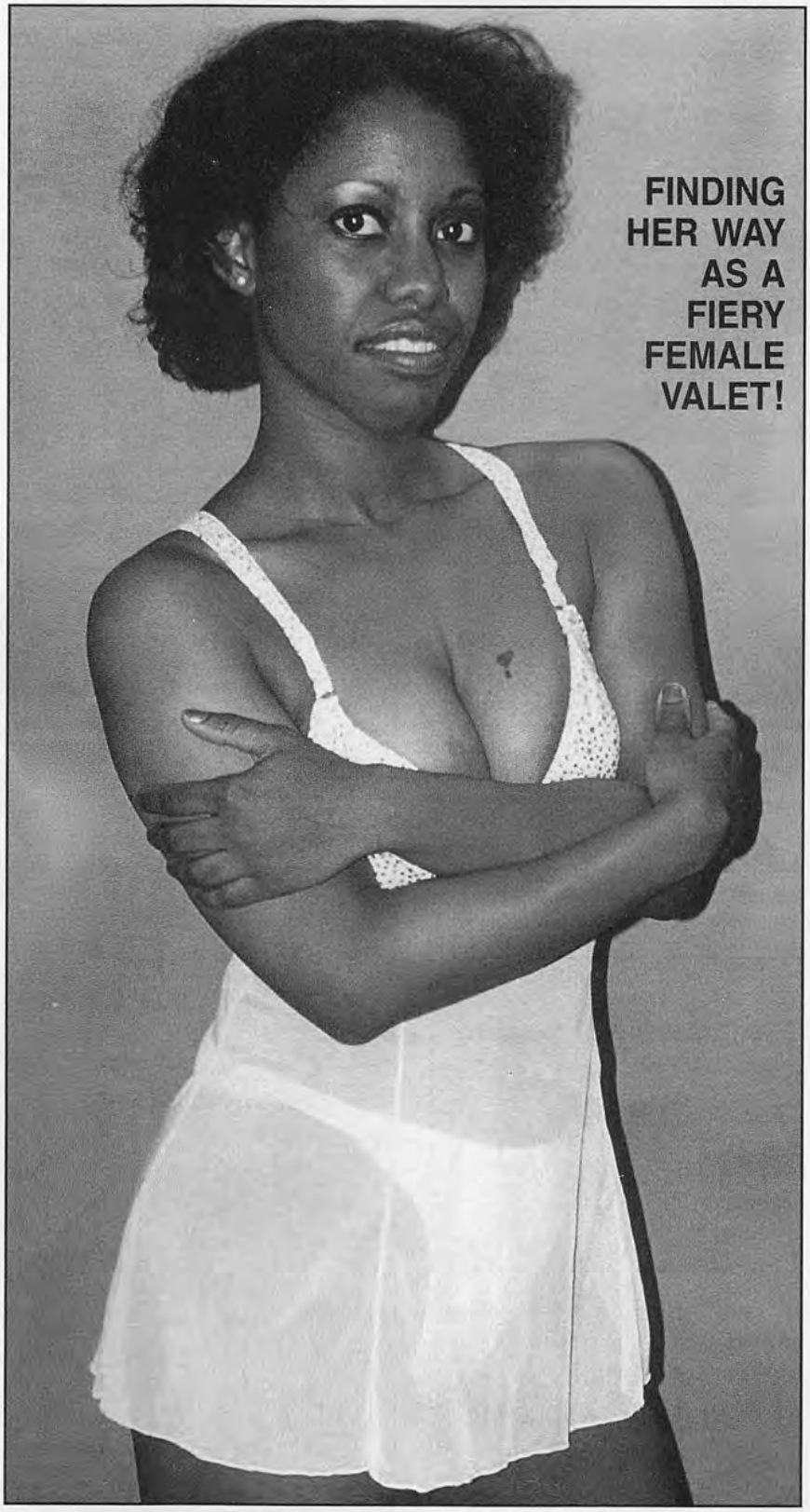


NW: HOW DID YOU BREAK INTO PRO WRESTLING, DELILAH?
DEL: I've been interested in wrestling since the 1980s when I became an avid fan. A couple of years ago, I read a book on how to break into the business and it fascinated me.

Interestingly enough, it was written by Percy Pringle, who now manages in the WWF as Paul Bearer. This book motivated me to get into the sport. It talks about wrestling, managing, and working as a valet. It really helped me understand the pro-wrestling business.

NW: Who trained you?
DEL: I was trained at the Monster Factory in Woodbury, New Jersey by "Pretty Boy" Larry Sharpe. I read about the Monster Factory in Percy's book. It was one of the training schools that he recommended.

NW: What was your training routine?
DEL: It was lots of fun, but it was also very demanding. I attended classes twice a week and learned the psychology behind managing and pro wrestling. I mastered a few holds and was educated about the rigors of the business itself.

The most important thing I gained from my training was increased confidence in myself. I feel secure about my abilities, which is very important if you are going to be a manager. If you don't believe in yourself, then no one else is going to believe in you, either.

NW: With all the training you've had, what made you decide to become a manager instead of a wrestler?
DEL: I've always enjoyed professional wrestling. It takes skill and endurance, but today's top women in wrestling are managers and valets, not wrestlers. I take my hat off to any woman who works as a wrestler. It's hard being a wrestler for both men and women in this sport. I also feel a lot safer at ringside. I would rather cheer for my wrestlers than actively compete in the ring.

NW: How long have you been working as a wrestling manager?
DEL: I've been managing for over two years now, and I have gained lots of experience as a manager. With each show, my skills keep getting better.

NW: Who have you managed?
DEL: I managed King Kong Bundy on my very first show. Because it was my debut, I was very excited and nervous.

interview & photos by Craig Prendergast

After my first show, I met two athletes who billed themselves as the Himalayan Playaz, and I managed them for about two years. The three of us worked very well together. They held the WWA tag-team titles for over a year, and I was with them during their title reign. They were my first champions.

I've also managed wrestlers Patch and East LA in the WWA as well as Steve Corino in the NWA.

NW: Which promotions have you worked for?

DEL: I started off working for the Monster Factory's promotion called the World Wrestling Alliance. I still work for them occasionally. I also work with the NWA. Their shows are always fun. I've also worked for Grand Wrestling Alliance as well as the Pennsylvania Wrestling Alliance.

NW: Where are you from?

DEL: I was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and I still live there.

NW: How old are you?

DEL: I am 28 years old.

NW: What are your vital statistics?

DEL: I'm 5 feet 4 inches and I weigh 110 pounds.

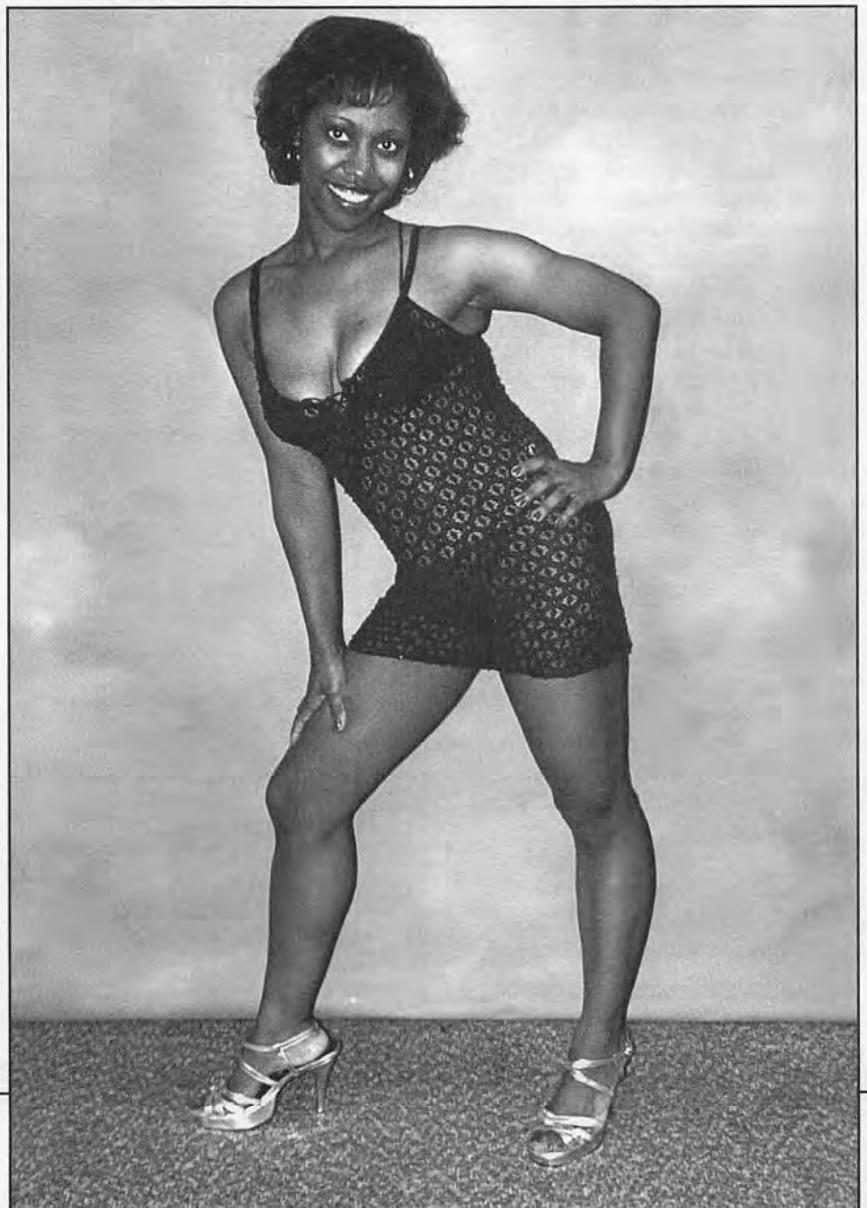
NW: What type of wrestler do you like to manage?

DEL: I can't actually say that I prefer any specific type of wrestler. I enjoy managing both single and tag teams. I'm comfortable managing fan favorites or rulebreakers. I like making the fans cheer me or boo me.

NW: What has been your most successful moment in wrestling so far?

DEL: Every time I go out there and entertain the audience is my most successful moment. If the fans have a good time, then I have a good time, too.

NW: Is it harder for a woman to break into pro wrestling than a man?



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DEL: Wrestling has always been perceived as a man's sport, so I think it's much harder for a woman to break into this business than it is for a man. Women are stereotyped in wrestling and I feel we are looked down on, too. Many women are in wrestling for reasons other than their love for the sport.

NW: Do your parents support your wrestling career?

DEL: Yes, my parents are very supportive of my career, especially my stepfather. They give me lots of advice and ideas. They're very helpful. The best thing about my parents is they give me a perspective on things from outside the ring. They attend my shows and constantly give me feedback on my performances. They tell me what they really think, and they are always very honest with me.

NW: Have you suffered any injuries?

DEL: Believe it or not, my worst injury has been a chipped tooth. It happened when I was in the ring with the Himalayan Playaz. I was holding one of their tag belts, which was one of the old WWA belts, the hard ones with a lot of metal in them, and when I stepped out of the ring, the belt hit one of the ring ropes and rebounded into my mouth, chipping my tooth. I didn't feel any pain, but when I took my hand away from my mouth, there was blood everywhere.

NW: What are your interests besides wrestling?

DEL: I like to read. I like poetry and music. I'm studying different computer programs and learning French right now. I used to be on my high-school bowling team, so I still bowl whenever I can. I love to roller skate. Does relaxing on the beach count as a hobby? *[Laughs]*

NW: Do you admire anyone in wrestling?

DEL: I admire everyone who has been in the wrestling business for a long time and has a genuine love for the sport.

NW: What are your goals?

DEL: I would like more exposure. I'd also like to work in front of bigger crowds in bigger arenas. I just want my name to get out there and get noticed. Ideally, I would love to work for one of the major-league promotions.

NW: Thank you, Delilah, for your time. Good luck with your growing stable of future World champions.

DEL: You're very welcome. I enjoyed it very much. ***NWW***

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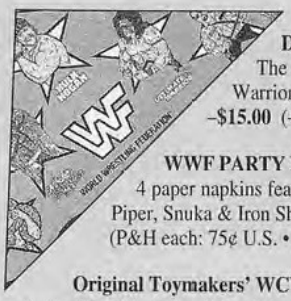

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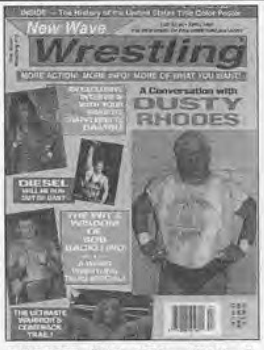

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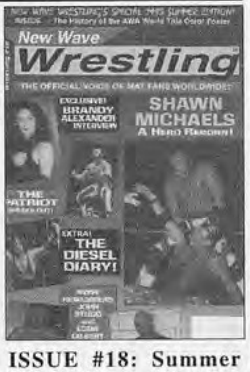

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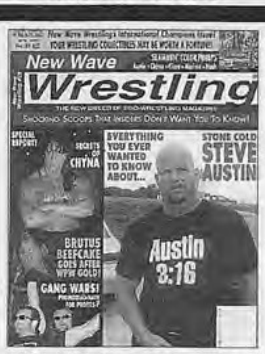

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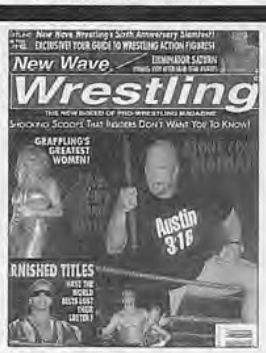

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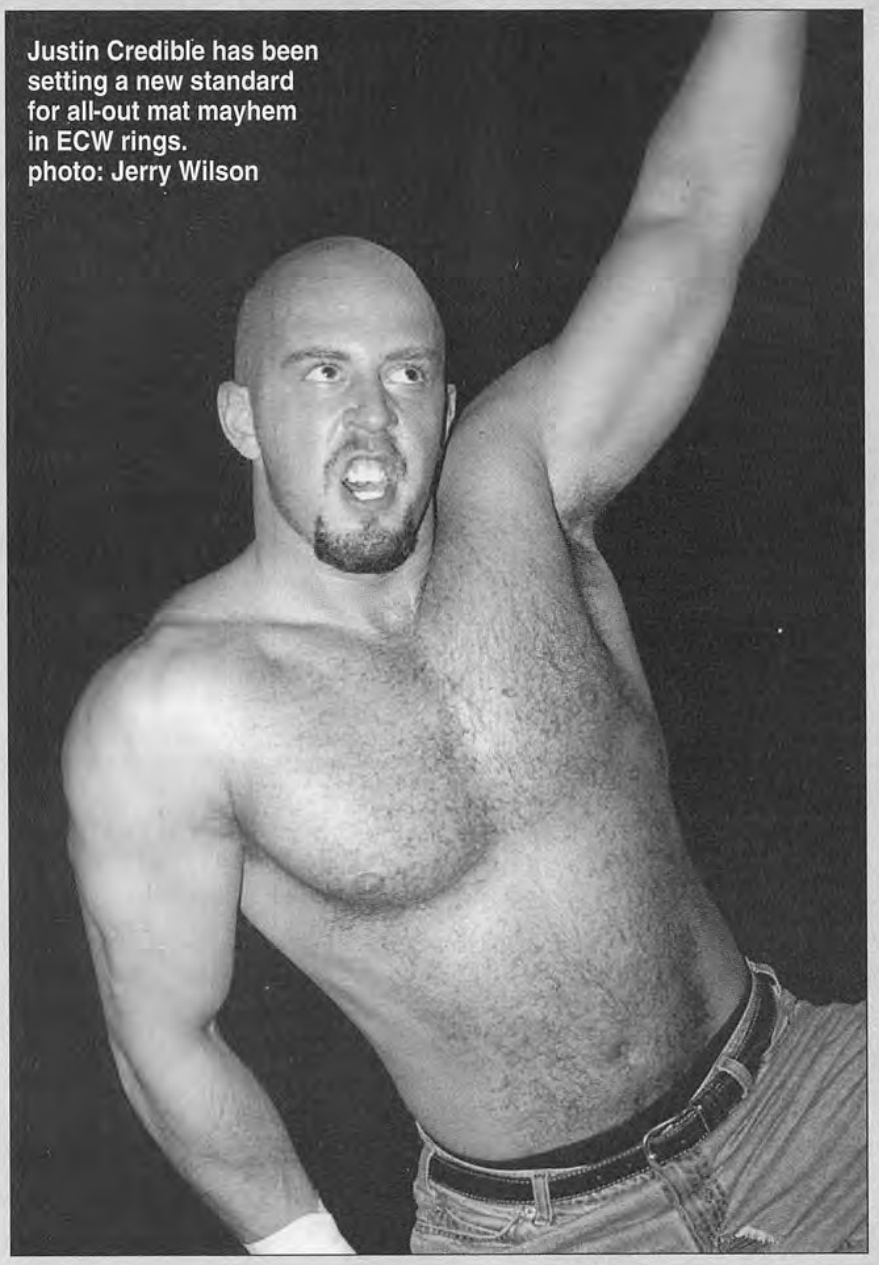


Justin Credible has been setting a new standard for all-out mat mayhem in ECW rings.
photo: Jerry Wilson

AIWA: Since our last report the AIWA heavyweight championship and tag-team titles have been declared vacant... Competing on this circuit are: Jason the Strong, The Medic, The Hood, Rhino, "Beautiful" Jack Stud, Crazy Dragon, Super Chicano, Tech 9 & Crazed 1, and managers "Luscious" Laura and Johnny Legend.

BWA: Belleview Wrestling Alliance, based in Belleview, Florida, recognizes "Mad" Matt (managed by legendary mini-grapplerette Diamond Lil) as the junior-heavyweight champion.

Legendary grapplerettes Fabulous Moolah and Mae Young compete here on an infrequent basis. Others on the circuit include: Buddy Valentine and grapplerettes Jezzabelle and Kate O'Connor.

ECW: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania's Extreme Championship Wrestling provides fast-and-furious action with a wide array of seasoned pros and hungry young rookies. Shane Douglas (Troy Martin), the ECW World heavyweight titleholder, is back after being sidelined with numerous injuries. He's currently holding back the challenges of Sabu and the self-proclaimed FTW World heavyweight champion Taz (Peter Senerchia).

Cheer him or jeer him, you can't deny the incredible success and superb aerial artistry of Rob Van Dam (Robert Szakowski). As we go to press, he still possesses the ECW World Television title and is also one half of the World tag championship team with partner Sabu (Terry Brunk).

Justin Credible (P.J. Walker) and Jerry Lynn have engaged in a series of unbelievable grudge matches which fans will be talking about for some time to come...The newest Japanese sensation known as Jensei Shinzaki previously wrestled in the WWF as Hakushi.

The Dudley Brothers—Bubba Ray (Mark LaMonica), "Big Dick" (Alex Rizzo), and D-Von (Devon Hughes)—have been feuding with The Sandman (James Fullerton), Tommy Dreamer (Thomas Laughlin), and Spike Dudley... Rumor has it that Beulah (Theresa Hays) has returned to school in pursuit of a college degree...Chris Candido and his real-life fiancée Tamara Sytch (formerly Sunny in the WWF) have joined forces on the circuit.

Dr. Luther (of British Columbia, Canada's ECCW) has arrived on the scene...Others on the circuit: Chris Chetti, Balls Mahoney (John Rickner), Masato Tanaka, The Blue Meanie (Brian Heffron), Atsushi Onita, Francine (Francine Fourmier), Bam Bam (Scott) Bigelow, Jason (Roland Knight), and Nicole Bass.

ECW: Extreme Combat Wrestling of Arizona runs shows infrequently throughout the state. Wrestlers on the circuit include: Stinky the Garbage Man, The Mercenary, Storm, El Jinete de la Muerte, and Mr. Cock-A-Doodle-Doo,

which ranks right up there with Mr. Ooh-La-La as one of our all-time favorite wrestling ring aliases.

EWA: Eastern Wrestling Alliance is based in Jay, Maine. Kidd USA holds the EWA light-heavyweight strap...The Power Company are the tag-team champs...Dave Vicious, who was trained by "Sycho" Sid Vicious (Sid Eudy), has been teaming with Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka on recent shows.

In what would have to be considered one of the biggest upsets of the 1990s, female manager/grapplerette Master Sandy defeated Tony Atlas (Tony White) for the EWA World title in Lewiston, Maine!...Former WWF World tag-team champs Iron Sheik (Khosrow Varizi) and Nicolai Volkoff (Josip Peruzovic) have reunited.

Intercontinental Women's champ Jamie West has a full complement of challengers—Malia Haska (Malia Hosaka?), Lisa the Adjuster, Violent Flame, Sky Hosoya, and Nasty Sherri are all top contenders.

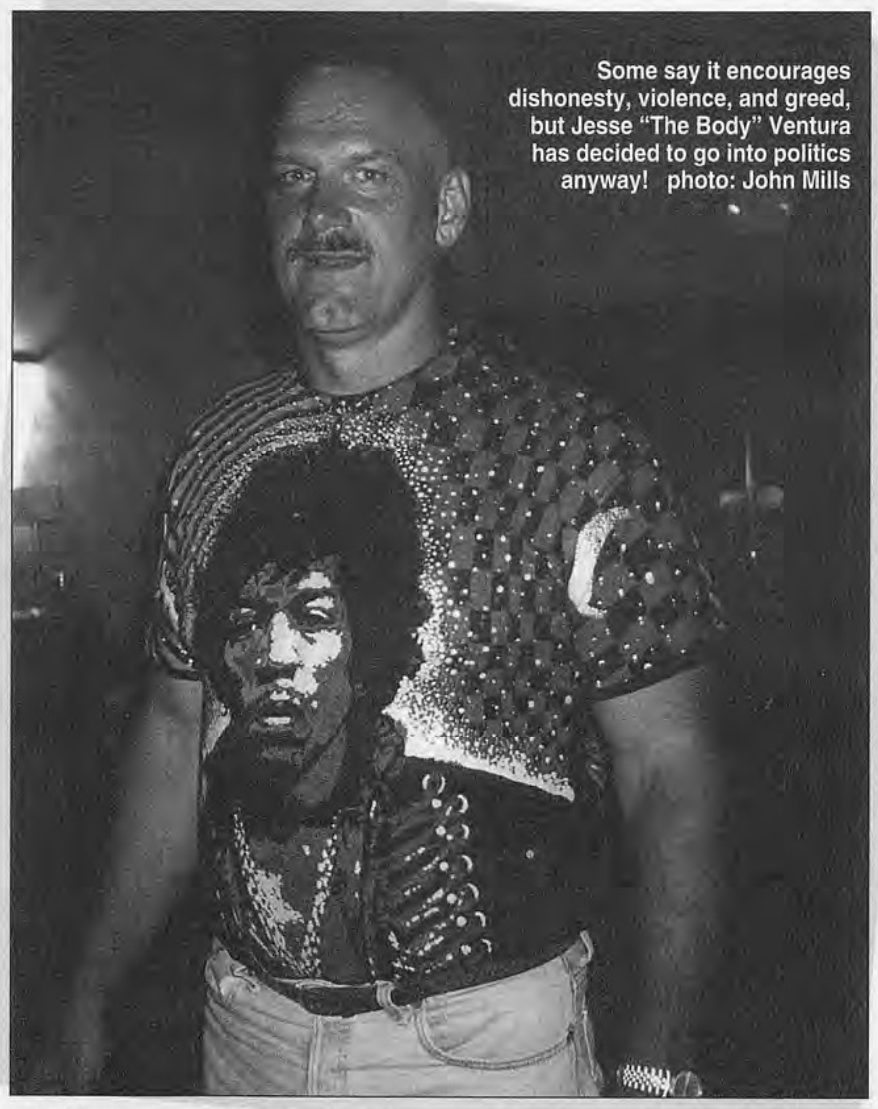
Rick Martel (Richard Vignault) and Tito Santana (Mercedes Solis) have rekindled their classic WWF feud... Special Delivery Jones, King Kong Bundy, "Cowboy" Bob Orton Jr., Tito Santana, Rick Fuller, Brian Walsh, Demolition Ax (Bill Eadie), and Chief Jules Strongbow (Frank Hill) have worked recent shows.

GBW: Green Bay Wrestling of Wisconsin features Johnny Stewart, Doomsday, Tony the Annihilator, and managers Marcial Bovee and Rainbow. We are not aware of any champions as we go to press.

GWA: Grande Wrestling Alliance of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has declared the GWA heavyweight title vacant at press time...O-Dogg holds the cruiserweight belt...Alexi Taktarov continues his reign as the GWA Intercontinental champion..."Reverend" Ron Starr has the TV title...Krash Krew hold the GWA tag-team straps.

An elimination tournament to crown a GWA Mini World champion will be finished by the time you read this...The legendary George "The Animal" Steele (James Myers), "Big" Bob Steele, King Kong Bundy, and Flexx Wheeler are all competing here.

HCW: Hoosier Championship Wrestling, based in Columbus, Indiana, is an exciting new wrestling promotion. An elimination tournament to crown the first HCW heavyweight champion should be under way by the time you read this..."Dirty" Dutch Mantell is feuding with Kamala...IWA Japanese champion "Dangerous" Doug Gilbert is scheduled to defend his title here.



Some say it encourages dishonesty, violence, and greed, but Jesse "The Body" Ventura has decided to go into politics anyway! photo: John Mills

Wrestlers currently under the HCW banner include: Bobo Brazil Jr., "Luscious" Lonnie Lee, and Terek the Great. Expected to compete here soon: Tommy "Wildfire" Rich, King Mable, and PG-13 (J.C. Ice & Wolfie D).

MPPW: Memphis Power Pro Wrestling of Tennessee has picked up where the now-defunct USWA has left off. Billy Joe Travis and "Bulldog" Raines defeated the Rock & Roll Express in the final round of an elimination tournament to crown the first MPPW tag-team champs.

Jerry "The King" Lawler is feuding with "The Giant King" Paul Silva (of WWF Oddities fame)...King Mabel (Nelson Frazier) is feuding with B.J. Awesome (Bobby Horne), who had previously wrestled with Mable as "Sir Mo" in the WWF as part of the Men on a Mission tag team.

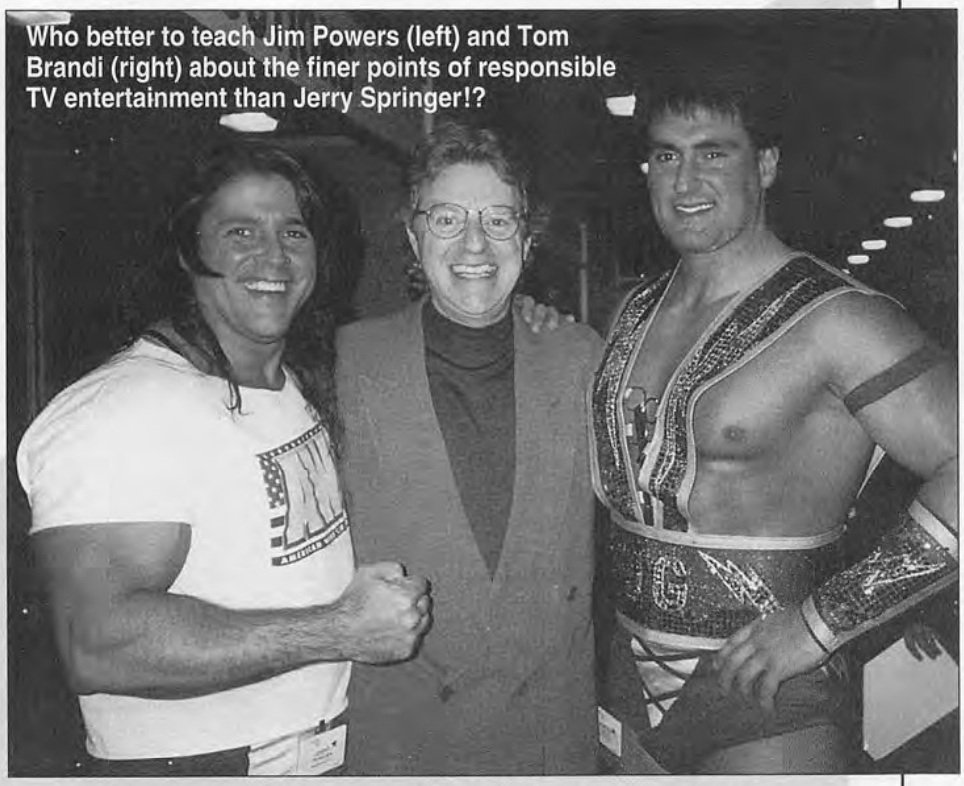
The Spellbinder is now competing here under the moniker of Streak..."Nature Boy" Buddy Landel has arrived and has been battling Jeff Jarrett...Many WWF stars have worked here. They include Rocky Maivia, Brian Christopher, The New Midnight Express, Kane (with Paul Bearer), and "Road Dog" Jesse Jammes.

NBW: New Breed Wrestling is based in Jeffersonville, New York. John Diamond (managed by Miss Tasia) defeated "Roughhouse" Ralph to win the NBW heavyweight title...Chip Stetson is the cruiserweight titleholder...Tony DeVito holds the NBW United States heavyweight crown.

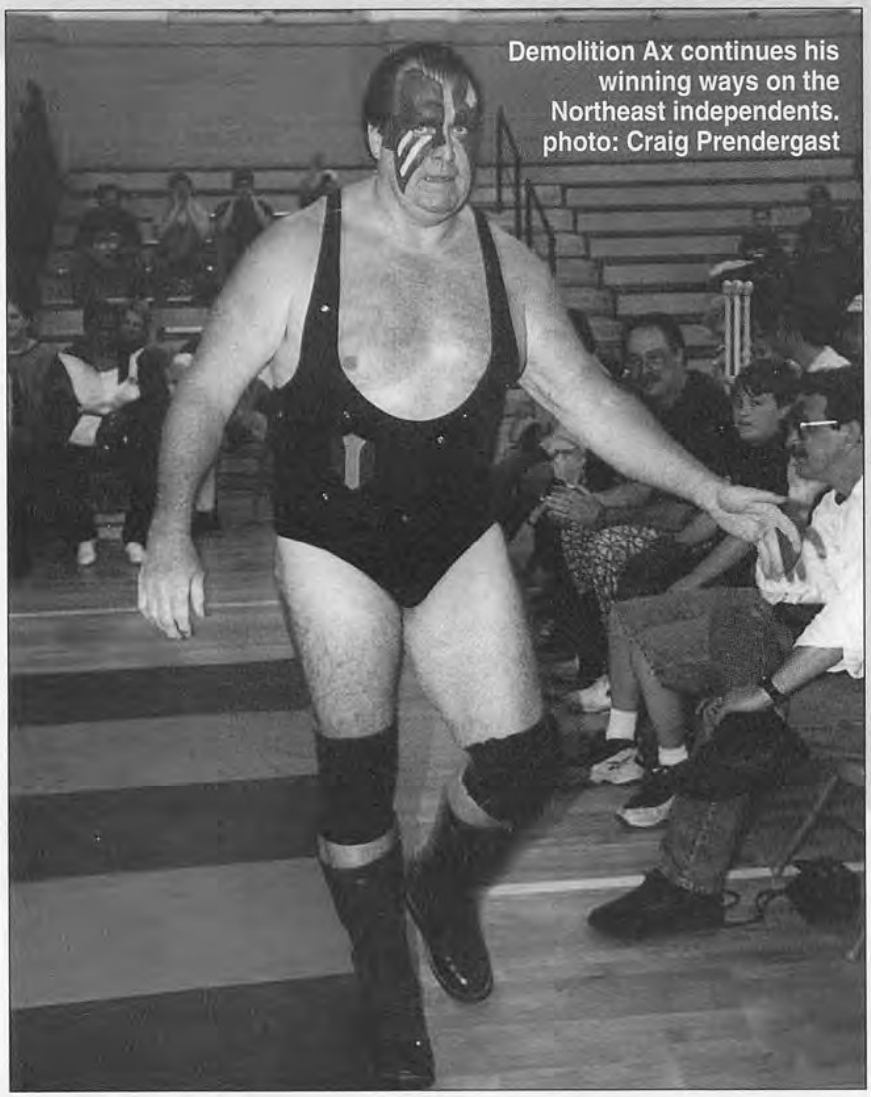
Tom Brandi, Primo Carnera III, Steve "Brooklyn Brawler" Lombardi, Doink the Clown, Jimmy "Kloudy" Shoulders, and King Kong Bundy have competed on recent shows.

NDW: New Dimension Wrestling is based in Greensboro, North Carolina. Tully Blanchard defeated "Nature Boy" Buddy Landel (Larry Anson) for the NDW heavyweight title...Surge (Matt Hardy) defeated Willow the Wisp (Jeff Hardy) for the light-heavy crown... Others on the circuit include: Jack Spade, "Beastmaster" Rick Link, The Fantastics (Bobby & Jackie Fulton), "Handsome" Jimmy Valiant, Ricky Morton, and "Pistol" Pez Whatley.

NWA (NJ): The National Wrestling Alliance, which is headed by President Howard Brody (NWA Florida promoter) and Vice President Dennis Coraluzzo (NWA New Jersey promoter), is engaged in an expansionary period and is recognizing NWA territories and titles throughout the United States and Canada. In spite of contractual obligations to the WWF, Dan "The Beast" Severn continues to defend the NWA World heavyweight championship nationwide.



Who better to teach Jim Powers (left) and Tom Brandi (right) about the finer points of responsible TV entertainment than Jerry Springer!?



Demolition Ax continues his winning ways on the Northeast independents. photo: Craig Prendergast

The breakdown of NWA United States territories (for a listing of Canadian affiliates, see our *International Slams* column) are as follows:

NWA East Coast: The Misfits are the United States tag champs...Headshrinker Samu (Samala Anoai) is the NWA Eastern heavyweight titleholder...Doug Gilbert is the National heavyweight champ...Brittany Brown has the NWA New England Women's title...Devon Storm (Chris Ford) holds the NWA light-heavyweight strap...The Border Patrol defeated The New Midnight Express for the NWA World tag straps.

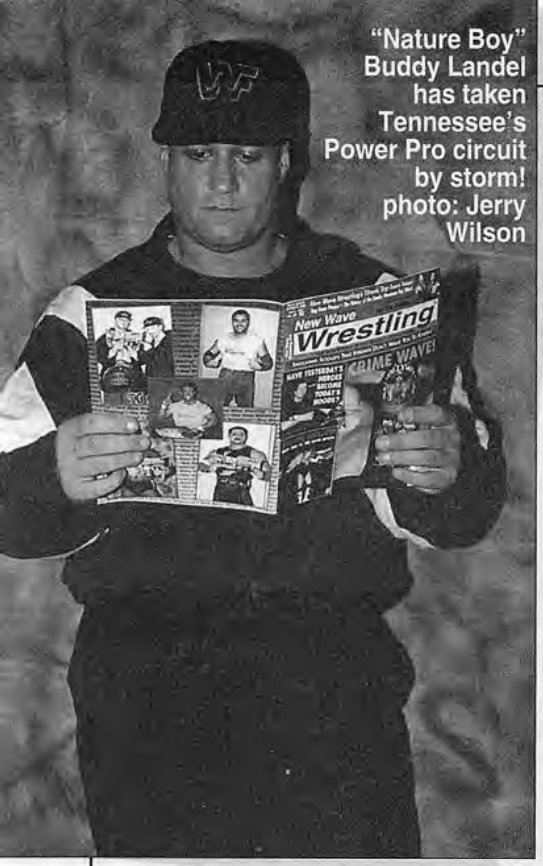
NWA Florida: Mike Marcello is the Florida junior-heavyweight king...Dory Funk Jr. is Florida heavyweight champ.

NWA Mid-Atlantic: Steve Corino is the NWA 2000 junior-heavyweight kingpin...Lance Diamond holds the NWA 2000 heavyweight gold.

NWA Southwest: Brian Adias defeated Kritical Mass to capture the NWA Texas heavyweight title...Ian St. James & Zane Morris are the Texas tag-team champs.

PCW: Promoters Jeff & Ivan Kafory run the Portland, Oregon-based Pacific Coast Wrestling. The vacant PCW heavyweight title will be awarded to the winner of the Greg "The Hammer" Valentine vs. "Mr. Freaky" Brian Cox rubber match...Lou Andrews and C.W. Bergstrom are the tag champions.

TOP: Texas Outlaw Promotion of



"Nature Boy" Buddy Landel has taken Tennessee's Power Pro circuit by storm! photo: Jerry Wilson

Mineral Wells, Texas recognizes Chad Hart as the United States titleholder... Khris Germany (formerly Kurt von Hess) holds the Brass Knuckles and Texas belts...B.A. Dalton, Kit Carson, and Mike Davis compete here.

CURFEW NOTES

As we go to press, pro-wrestler-turned-actor-turned-politician Jesse "The Body" Ventura (James Janos) will be running for governor of Minnesota after winning the unanimous endorsement of the Minnesota Reform Party. Ventura previously held office as mayor of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

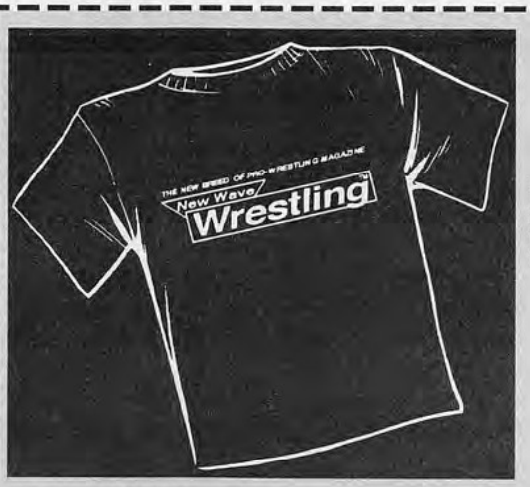
PASSAGES

Bobo Johnson, 55, died on September 5, 1998 after battling diabetes and related liver problems. In the 1960s, he attained numerous important victories on the circuits of Texas and Mexico.

Terry Joyal, 61, who competed as Terry Garvin, died on August 21, 1998 from stomach cancer. As the eldest member of the famed Garvin wrestling family (none of whom were actually related), he held many regional tag-team titles with "brothers" Ronnie and Jimmy.

William Reid, 48, who competed as mini-wrestler Billy the Kid, died on July 5, 1998 after a short illness.

Frank Shields, who competed throughout the United States as "Bull" Bullinski in the 1960s and 1970s, recently passed away after an undisclosed illness. ***NWW***



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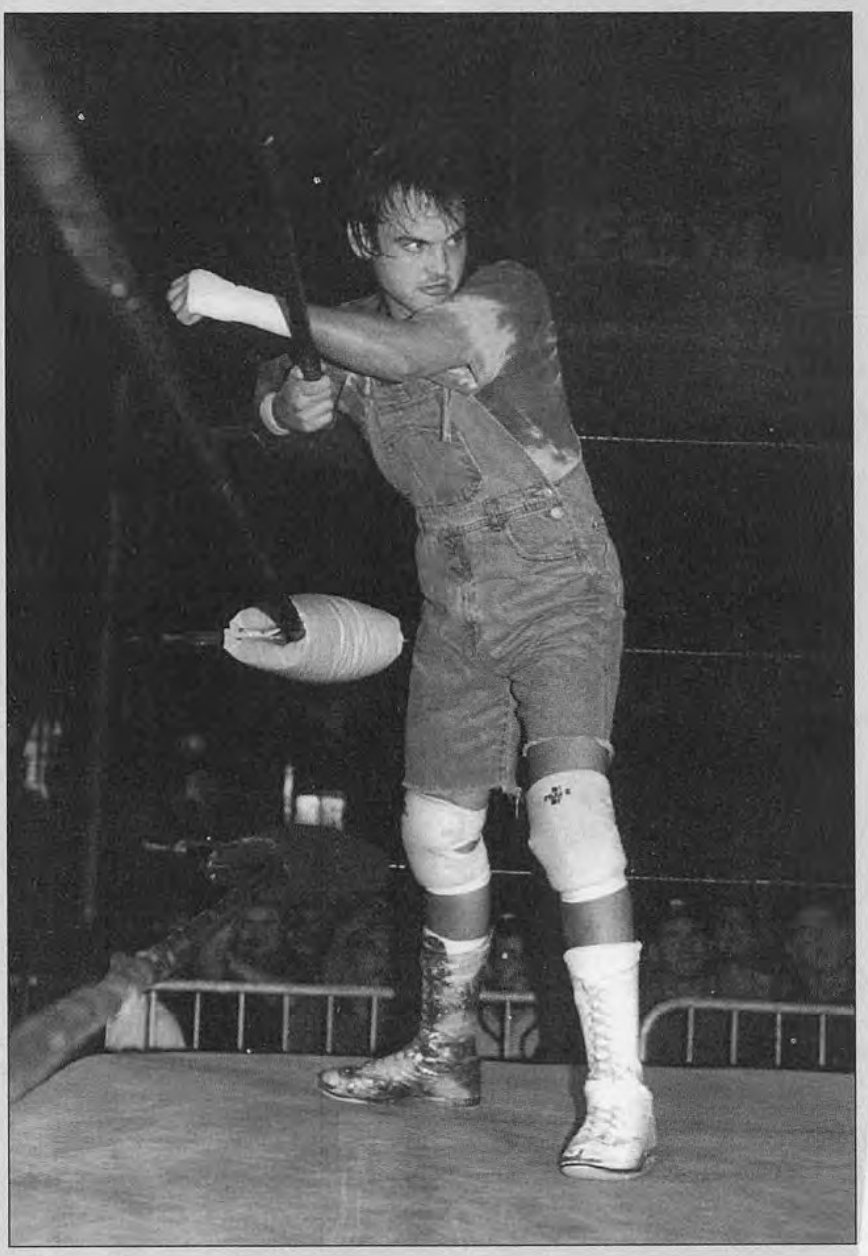
SPIKE DUDLEY

IT'S NOT THE SIZE OF THE DOG IN THE FIGHT—YADDA, YADDA, YADDA!

NW: WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
SD: I'm from Lincoln, Rhode Island.
NW: What was it that made you decide to go from wrestling fan to wrestling participant?
SD: I grew up watching the World Wide Wrestling Federation on TV in the mid-1970s. I also attended the arena shows with my family and friends. It didn't take long before wrestling became my main love.
NW: Who was your favorite pro wrestler at the time?
SD: It was Bob Backlund. When he was champion back in 1978, I knew the results of nearly all his matches. He was an amazing guy.
NW: How did you get your start in wrestling?
SD: Well, my involvement as a wrestler goes back to 1992 when I went to a school in California called Pacific Coast Sports. I was trained by Rick Thompson, and my first match came one year later.

After wrestling for a number of independent promotions for a couple of years, I sent ECW my résumé. They called me back, and the rest is history. It was all pretty cut and dry.
NW: What made you decide to go to the West Coast from Rhode Island?
SD: After graduating from Skidmore College in upstate New York, my girlfriend and I wanted to see the country, so California was where we went.

I grew up in New England, but my family was originally from Schenectady, New York, which is not that far from Skidmore College, so the West Coast was a major change in my life.
NW: What were your expectations when you joined ECW?
SD: I had no set goals. Previously, I had worked for promotions where I saw the same faces in the same locker rooms all the time, and I wanted a change. I had seen ECW's product on TV and really wanted to fit in with this new group of guys. Hey, I was scared, too! *[Laughs]*
NW: How old are you?
SD: I am 25 years old.
NW: What are your vital statistics?
SD: I'm 5 feet 7 inches and I weigh 155 pounds.
NW: How are you able to wrestle against guys who outweigh you by 100 or more pounds?
SD: Look, I knew what I was getting into when I chose to go this path. Wrestling is traditionally not a small man's sport by any means. I know it



interview & photos by Don Laible

must be weird for fans to see such a great weight difference between opponents, but personally, I've gotten over it a long time ago.
NW: Are you surprised by how the ECW fans have taken to you?
SD: The ECW fans appreciate hard work, and I'm always giving my best in the ring. Believe me, I appreciate all the support coming my way. It's taken me a long time to get the respect of wrestling fans.
NW: What went through your mind when Bam Bam Bigelow threw you over the top rope and into the first couple of rows at ringside, then have the fans pass you around?
SD: It was a rush! Everyone asks me if I was scared, but I really wasn't. As with all my matches, you never know what's going to happen, you just react to the situation. I was catapulted into the crowd and it wasn't a pleasant experience. Bam Bam had a running start and pitched me beyond anyone's expectations. He certainly surprised me!
NW: Do you give much thought to the physical punishment your body is taking right now and how it will affect you in the future?
SD: Sure, I think about it, but there's nothing I can do about it. I'm not going to stop wrestling. I enjoy it too much. I'd like to have a family someday, and I am hopeful that I'll still be able to horse around with my kids when the time comes.
NW: What do your parents think of you wrestling?
SD: They know it's what I love to do, so they respect my decision. Sometimes it scares them, but other times, they think it's cool that I'm a wrestler. I have three older brothers and they don't have an opinion either way about my ring exploits.
NW: What has been your biggest surprise in this business so far?
SD: My biggest surprise in wrestling is that I have reached a promotional level as fast as I have. I didn't expect this would happen to me. I went into wrestling for fun, and I never really thought I'd be making a full-time career out of it, let alone be appearing on pay-per-view shows.
NW: What is the toughest part of being a wrestler?
SD: You have to give up a stable family life. It's hard to balance a family and a career when you're on the road so much. Also, when you do something crazy like wrestle, there is no job security.

Luckily, I am only responsible for myself right now. The bottom line is I'm living my dream and that's really cool!
NW: Thank you, Spike, for sharing your thoughts with us. Good luck and take care!
SD: You're welcome, and from one wrestling fan to all the other fans out there—PEACE! ***NWW***

The Giant Killers of ECW: Mikey Whipwreck & Spike.

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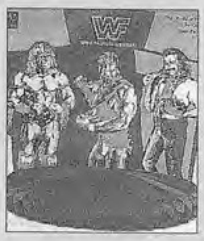

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All-Star Wrestling Vol. 17 Nightmare & Humongous vs. Jake Roberts & Jim Duggan.

Great AWA Title Matches Rick Martel vs. Jumbo Tsuruta. Nick Bockwinkel vs. Verne Gagne. Martel vs. Mike Hayes.

Combat Sports® Movie Classics Vol. 1 Gorgeous George in his feature-length film debut—*Alias the Champ* (1949).

Jim Garvin & Steve Regal Against the Road Warriors, Scott Hall (Razor Ramon) & Curt Hennig, plus more.

Greatest AWA Tag-Team Matches Curt Hennig & Greg Gagne vs. The Freebirds. Sgt. Slaughter & "Crusher" Blackwell vs. Legion of Doom. Mr. Saito & Nick Bockwinkel vs. Greg & Verne Gagne.

Greatest Sports Legends: Bruno Sammartino Highlights from the former WWWF champion's career including clips against Spiros Arion, Stan Hansen, "Killer" Kowalski, Ernie Ladd, Gorilla Monsoon, Buddy Rogers & the Sheik.

Hulk Hogan's AWA Battles Hulk vs. AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel. Andre & Hulk vs. Bobby Heenan, Bob Duncum, Bockwinkel & Ken Patera.

Mad Bull (1979) Alex Karras plays Iago Karkus, a pro wrestler troubled by his Greco-Roman mat past.

Madison Square Garden's Greatest Wrestling Antonino Rocca against Don Leo Jonathan, Lou Kim, Primo Carnera, and two title bouts with NWA champ Lou Thesz. Lord Leslie Carlton vs. Johnny Barrend. Verne Gagne vs. "Killer" Kowalski. Gene Stanlee vs. Kowalski.

Midget Madness A very lighthearted look at midget wrestling featuring: Sky Low Low, Fuzzy Cupid, Little Tokyo, Cowboy Lang, Little Mr. T & others.

Neutron vs. The Maniac (1960) Masked Mexican wrestling hero battles a killer (dubbed in English).

Neutron vs. The Death Robots (1961) Our hero must battle the ultimate killing machine (dubbed in English).

Neutron and The Black Mask (1962) Mexico's super-hero collides with crooks and a neutron bomb! (in English).

Neutron vs. Dr. Caronte (1962) Our hero clashes with a mad scientist and his monster army! (in English)

No Holds Barred (1952) The Bowery Boys tackle rasslin' gangsters in this flick featuring mat greats of the 1950s. Bonus—*Rasslin' Match*—an Amos & Andy cartoon!

Pro-Wrestling's Greatest Heroes Lou Thesz vs. Vic Christy. Antonino Rocca vs. Benito Gardini. Ed Carpentier vs. Mikel Scicluna. Ricky Starr vs. Karl von Hess. Bruno Sammartino vs. "Magnificent" Maurice. Verne Gagne vs. Larry Hennig. Gene Stanlee vs. Kola Kwariani. Bobo Brazil vs. Johnny Barrend. Sam Steamboat vs. Mike Sharpe Sr. Great Scott & Antonino Rocca vs. Karl & Eric von Hess.

Pro-Wrestling's Greatest Matches Bruno Sammartino vs. Fred Blassie. Buddy Rogers vs. Johnny Valentine. Ed Carpentier & Antonino Rocca vs. Skull Murphy & Pampero Firpo. The Kangaroos & Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Antonino Rocca, Miguel Perez, & Ricky Starr. Buddy Rogers vs. Bobo Brazil. Lord Blears vs. Baron Leone. Mr. Moto vs. Henry Hank. Joe Louis vs. Sky High Lee. Nick Bockwinkel vs. Matt Murphy. Gallaghers vs. "Magnificent" Maurice & Johnny Barrend. Primo Carnera vs. Jim Londos. Sheik vs. Jim Melby. Buddy Rogers vs. Pat O'Connor.

Pro-Wrestling's Greatest Villains The Grahams vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez. Buddy Rogers vs. Abe Jacobs. Fred Blassie vs. The Hangman. Killer Kowalski vs. Yukon Eric. Fritz von Erich vs. Bobby Brown. The Millers vs. Kangaroos. Crusher vs. Johnny Valentine. Gorgeous George vs. Larry Moquin. Bruiser & Hans Schmidt vs. Volkoffs. Jack Allen & Bavarian Rudy vs. Lou Albano & Tony Altemore.

Racket (Pindown) Girls 1950s feature film—mobsters take advantage of innocent girl grapplers.

The Road Warriors L.O.D. versus Larry & Curt Hennig and Baron von Raschke & Curt Hennig.

Santo vs. The Zombie Invasion (1961) A mad scientist and his monster army want to take over the world.

Santo vs. The Vampire Women (1961) Need we say more?

Santo in the Wax Museum (1963) A mad scientist is turning people into wax figures.

Sgt. Slaughter Vol. 1 Sarge battles Larry Zbyszko, Boris Zhukov, and battle-royal action.

Sgt. Slaughter Vol. 2 Battles with Zbyszko, Boris Zhukov, and more.

Secrets of Pro Wrestling Exposes how all of the great mat moves are done!

Super Argo (1966) Argo versus humanoids in this Italian entry into the wrestling super-hero genre!

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 1 Bob Orton Jr. vs. Killer Karl Kox. Juan Zapata vs. Mr. Olympia (Jerry Stubbs). Samoans vs. Junk Yard Dog & Mike George. No DQ: Dusty Rhodes & Dick Murdoch vs.

Samoans. Wrestler/midget lady mixed tag: Diamond Lil & Rick Ferrara vs. Barbie Doll & Tony Charles. Samoans vs. JYD & Brian Blair.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 2 One Man Gang, the Samoans, Skandor Akbar attack Ernie Ladd. Iron Sheik vs. King Kobra. No. American title: Ted DiBiase vs. Orndorff. Samoans vs. Ferrara & Ash. Louisiana title: JYD vs. Bob Roop (w/Orton, Jr. & Orndorff).

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 3 Jimmy Garvin (with Precious) vs. Billy Brooks. Steve Regal & Jim Garvin attack Wahoo McDaniel. Louisiana title: JYD vs. the Grappler. Mississippi title: Orton, Jr. (with Orndorff & Samoans) vs. Mike George (with Dusty Rhodes & JYD). Dusty brawls with Orndorff & Orton. Ed Wiskowski & Orton vs. DiBiase & Mr. Olympia. JYD vs. Masked Terry Orndorff (Shane Douglas) with Paul Orndorff & "Bob Orton Jr.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 4 Nick Bockwinkel vs. Manny Fernandez. David & Kerry von Erich vs. Gene Yates & Baron von Krupp.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 5 Bruno Sammartino & Bruiser vs. Ernie Ladd & Baron von Raschke. Crusher, Bruiser, & Little Bruiser vs. Bobby Heenan & Blackjacks. Tully Blanchard vs. Manny Fernandez.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 6 Andre vs. Sheik. Jay Strongbow vs. Don Kent (shark cage match). Pampero Firpo vs. Doney. Bruiser Brody & Scott Casey vs. Kiniski & Spoiler.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 7 Terry "Hulk" Boulder (Hulk Hogan) vs. Andre the Giant (arm wrestling). Bob Ellis vs. Bobby Heenan.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 8 Nick Bockwinkel vs. Magnum T.A. Ivan Putski vs. Eddie Mansfield. Tito Santana vs. Kelly Kiniski.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 9 Chief Wahoo McDaniel vs. Tully Blanchard. The Sheik vs. Tom Jones. Bobo Brazil vs. Michael Angelo.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol 10 The Sheik vs. Tiger Jeet Singh (mud match). Terry Boulder (Hulk Hogan) vs. the Outlaw. Tully Blanchard & Gino Hernandez vs. Scott Casey & Magnum T.A.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 11 Terry Taylor vs. Sabu Samoa. Wahoo McDaniel, Marty Jannetty & Tom Rogers vs. Grapplers & Ted Oates.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 12 Short clips & full bouts with Gorgeous George, Fritz von Erich, Whipper Watson, Yukon Eric, Rogers, Brazil & more.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 13 Butch Reed vs. The Giant Kamala.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 14 Jim Duggan vs. Ted DiBiase (street fight).

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 15 Ric Flair vs. Terry Taylor.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 16 Ric Flair vs. Wahoo McDaniel.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 17 Ted DiBiase & Steve Williams vs. Hector & Chavo Guerrero (cage).

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 18 Jim Cornette & the Midnight Express vs. Fantastics & Jim Duggan.

Tag Team TV pilot starring Roddy Piper & Jesse Ventura.

Thunder in Paradise Two-hour TV pilot with Hulk Hogan.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 1 Hulk Hogan vs. Jerry Lawler. Nick Bockwinkel vs. Manny Fernandez. The Sheik vs. Mark Lewin.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 2 Savage & Poffo vs. R&R Express. Blondes vs. PYTs. Savage vs. Lawler (cage).

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 3 Andre & Dusty Rhodes vs. the Samoans & Ernie Ladd. T. Charles vs. Paul Orndorff. Orton Jr. vs. Jim Garvin. The Iron Sheik vs. King Kobra. Juan Zapata vs. Mr. Olympia.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 4 JYD vs. Bob Roop. Ted DiBiase vs. Paul Orndorff. DiBiase vs. Ed Wiskowski. JYD & Mike George vs. the Samoans. JYD & Brian Blair vs. the Samoans.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 5 Randy Savage & Lanny Poffo vs. the R&R Express. Rick Rude, Jim Neidhart, Ox Baker & Assassin vs. Robert Reed, Tiger Mask, Keith Eric & Mad Dog. Road Warriors vs. Austin Idol & Lawler. Terry Boulder (Hulk) vs. the Outlaw.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 7 Lawler vs. Kamala. Ray Stevens, Blackjack Mulligan & Baron von Raschke vs. Crusher, Bruiser & Sailor Art Thomas.

Wrestlers Away From The Ring Vol. 1 Two hours of wrestlers on talk shows.

Wrestling Funnies Vol. 1 Lighthearted look at the mat game featuring Jim Duggan, DiBiase, JYD, Orndorff & Missy Hyatt vs. Dark Journey.

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 1 Mark Lewin vs. Ox Baker. Crusher Verdue vs. Frankie Laine. Garth Vader vs. Stan Stasiak. Sheik vs. Stan Stasiak. Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Thunderbolt Patterson.

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 2 Mickey Doyle & Billy Red Lyons vs. Angelo & Lanny Poffo. Stasiak vs. Don Kent.

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 3 Features Rocca, Bruiser, Sheik & Ladies!

Wrestling Queen 1970s documentary on lady wrestler Vivian Vachon—features Andre the Giant, the Blackjacks, Vachons & more!

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 1 Andre vs. Spoiler. Bruiser Brody vs. Twin Devils. Mark Lewin vs. Dusty Rhodes. Killer Brooks & Ivan the Terrible vs. Tiger Conway Jr. & Tiny Tom. Victor the Wrestling Bear vs. Gary Hart (cage).

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 2 Ken Patera vs. Jose Lothario. Leroy Brown vs. Tim Brooks. Wenona Little Heart vs. Judy Martin. Dusty Rhodes vs. Ivan Koloff (Coffin Match).

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 3 Dusty, Slater & Steamboat vs. Black Bart, Ron Bass & Tully Blanchard. Ragin' Bull & Buzz Tyler vs. Bart & Dory Funk Jr. Barry Windham & Mike Rotunda vs. Kelly & Royal. Valentine vs. Muslin. Ivan Koloff & Don Kernodle vs. The Youngbloods.

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 4 Mad Dog & Pork Chop vs. Bushwhackers. Duggan vs. Buzz Sawyer (Dog Collar). Jake Roberts vs. Humongous (cage). Jake Roberts vs. Dick Slater w/ Dark Journey, plus Bunkhouse royal!

Wrestling Women & The Doctor of Doom (1961) Gal Grapplerettes vs. a demented doc and his monster!

Wrestling Women vs. The Aztec Mummy (1963) Fearless grapplerettes battle a mad mummy.

Larry Zbyszko "Spudhead" battles Sgt. Slaughter, Greg Gagne & Larry Winters.

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INTERNATIONAL SLAMS

IWF World heavyweight champion Tatanka continues to dominate the rings of South Africa.
photo: Scott Ferenczi

AFRICA

IWCN: The International Wrestling Club of Nigeria currently recognizes The World Katanka as the IWCN titleholder...Tina Terror continues as the IWCN Women's champion. She has been holding back the challenges of Tessy Dee...IWCN superheavyweight champ is "The Nigerian Police Force" O.C. Muzeze...All other championships remain constant since the last issue. "Monkey Man" Prime Tornado is the IWCN light-heavyweight titleholder; Terror Kid is the IWCN middleweight champion, and The Marvelous Iron Brothers are the National and African tag-team champions.

IWF/UWF: As reported in last issue, South Africa's legendary Danie Brits has officially retired. His World superheavyweight championship went into an elimination tournament...Tatanka (Chris Chavis) of WWF fame now holds both the CWA and the IWF World heavyweight championships...Pink Panther is the AAWF All-African mid-heavyweight titleholder...CWA South African superheavyweight champion Danie Voges continues to hold back the challenges of Canada's Giant Warrior and the Tornado...Wrecking Crew's Fury (Marc Laurinatis) and Rage (Al Greene) are still recognized as the World tag-team champions.

P.J. Black, the world's youngest professional wrestler, is an 18-year-old high-school student who was trained by Tatanka...Others on the circuit include: The Scorpion, "Fighting Frenchman" Terri Middoux, "Prince of Africa" Robson Kapora, Veemax, Gypsey Roulette, and J.D. Diamanto.

NWF: Big Ballo is the World heavyweight champion...Proving Mohammed is the light-heavyweight titleholder... Ariba Swan is the Nigerian Wrestling Federation middleweight champion... The NWF tag-team title is vacant... Liberia's De Stubborn Headache (Sandra Varney Sherif) defeated Nigeria's Anna "Ring" Marshal for the African Women's title.

WWWA: The World Wide Wrestling Association is based in Entebbe, Uganda and runs irregular tours of the region. King Kong Bundy (Chris Pallies) is the WWWA World heavyweight champion...Abdullah the Butcher (Lawrence Shreeve) holds the Brass Knuckles trophy..."Musoke" Tony Atlas (Tony White) is the African Continental kingpin...Sweet Destiny is the Women's champion.

AUSTRALIA

APW: Australasian Pro Wrestling is based in Melbourne. George Gulio is the Victorian heavyweight champion...The Blade Runner is the Victorian lightweight titleholder. His most persistent challenger to date has been former champion Ricky Diamond...Bully and Kid Thunder hold the tag belts.

AWA: The Australian Wrestling Association is based in Sydney. Greg Smitt is the AWA heavyweight champion...The Gangsta is the lightweight titleholder...Jumping Josh holds the Roy Heffernan Memorial trophy.

AUSTRIA & GERMANY

CWA: Michael Kovac and British star Dirtbike Kid are feuding over the CWA

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PRO WRESTLING TORCH

Issue No. 484 — WRESTLING'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS AND OPINION — March 14, 1998

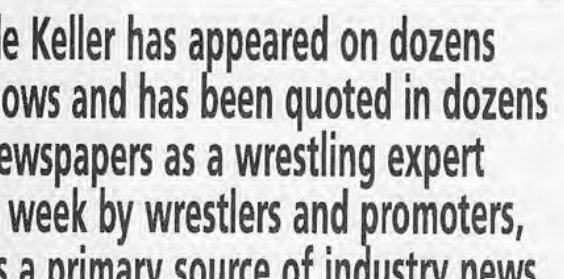
Hogan–Nash/Hall clash, Bischoff fires Syxx

Accusations flow of Hall and Nash stirring locker room, Bischoff fires Syxx "to get back at them"

COVER STORY by Wade Keller

Headline Analysis

Sean Waltman, a.k.a Syxx


PRO WRESTLING TORCH

Issue No. 490 — WRESTLING'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS AND OPINION — April 18, 1998

Streak is over: Raw beats Nitro 4.6 to 4.3

Raw teases McMahon vs. Austin match; Nitro features Nash vs. Sting rematch, but no Hogan

COVER STORY by Wade Keller

Headline Analysis

Ric Flair on shaky ground with WCW

By Wade Keller, Editor

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

- TORCH TALK
- WWF NEWSWIRE
- ECW NEWSWIRE
- BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE

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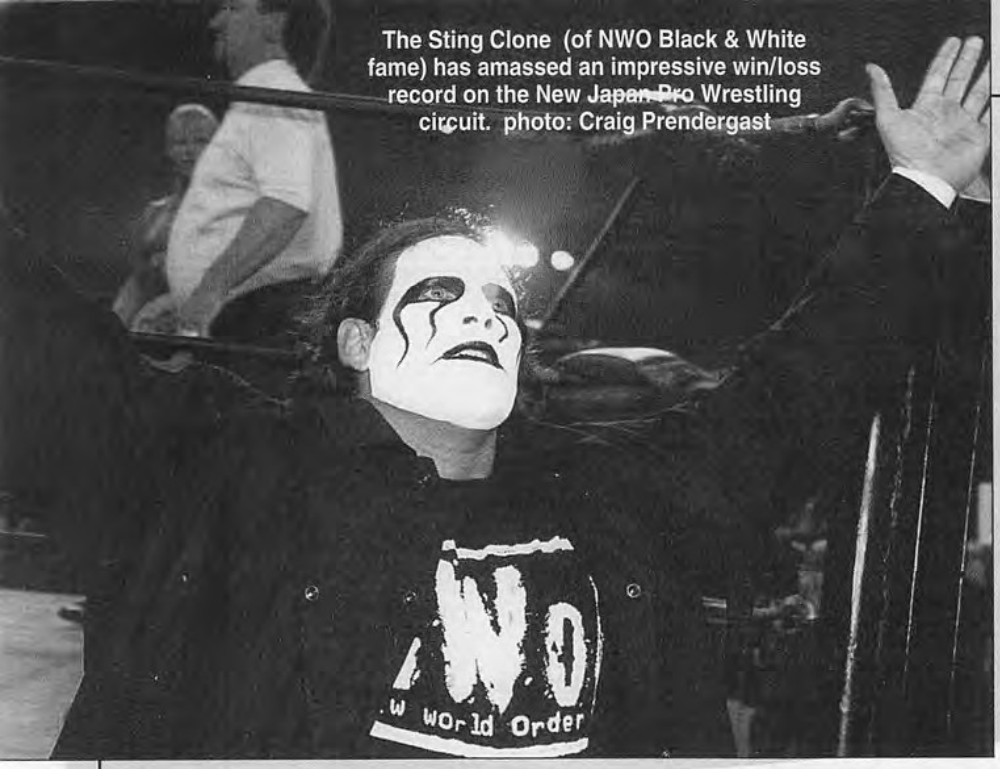


The Sting Clone (of NWO Black & White fame) has amassed an impressive win/loss record on the New Japan Pro Wrestling circuit. photo: Craig Prendergast

Carlson is the Canadian champion...EZ Ryder and Darren Dalton are the NWA Canadian Wrestling Federation tag-team champs ..."Caveman" Broda is the CWF light-heavyweight champion.

ECCW/NWA•PNW: Extremely Canadian Championship Wrestling of British Columbia is now recognized as "NWA Pacific Northwest." NWA World heavyweight champion Dan "The Beast" Severn successfully defended his laurels against Doink (Matt "Borne" Osbourne), "Iron" Mike Roselli, and ECCW heavyweight champion Doby Gillis...Fatu (Solofatu Anoai) has recently competed here...Destruction is the NWA Vancouver Island champion...The Moondogs beat Michelle Starr & Johnny Canuck for the tag straps...An elimination tournament to crown a light-heavyweight champ is under way featuring junior-heavyweight title...Grapplerettes Sonja Schmöckel and Nicole Griehsler have engaged in a series of exciting clashes as of late...The German Kid and Gerry Mountain are the IWW tag-team titleholders. Their top-ranking challengers are Pete Johnson and Chris the Bambi Killer.

We have no update on the status of the Catch Wrestling Association World heavyweight championship which was previously held by Marshall Duke (Michael Droese). Duke recently competed in the United States for the WWF, so it's possible the title is vacant...The same could possibly be said for the CWA Intercontinental title held by Dave "Fit" Finley.

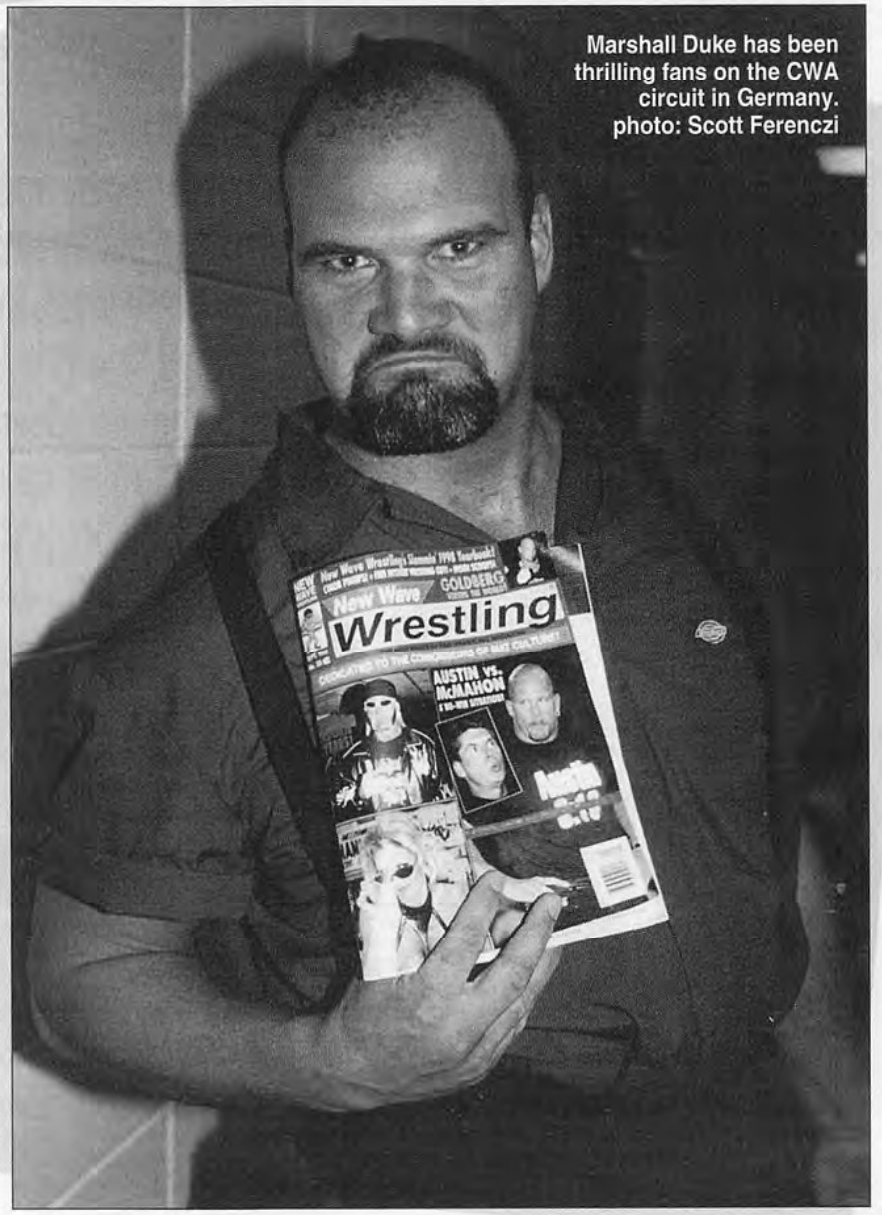
The Bounty Hunter & Tony St. Clair and Cannonball Grizzly & Indian Warrior continued to collide over the CWA tag-team championship...Franz Schumann is the middleweight champ ...The Commonwealth kingpin is Tony St. Clair.

Others who have seen recent action here include: Ian Rotten, Billy Joe Eaton, Robbie Brookside, Jason Cross, Christian Eckstein, Phil Powers, and Mid-American junior-heavyweight champion Colonel Blatnis.

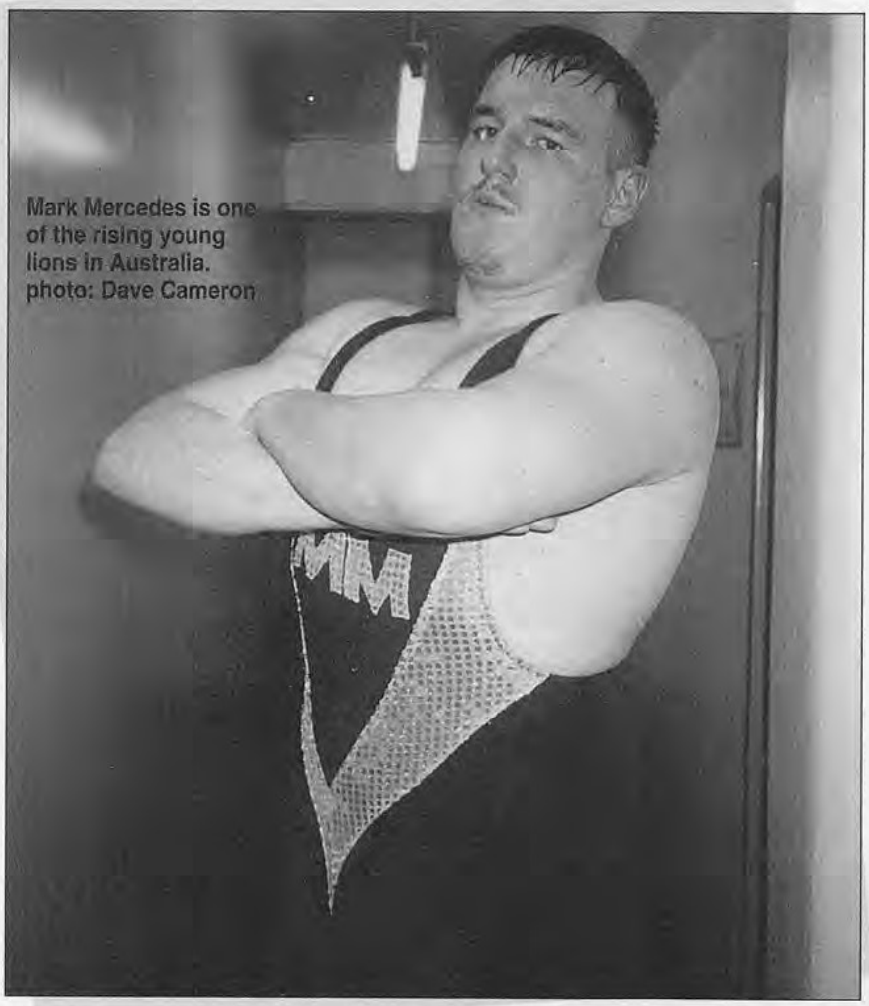
CANADA

CWF: Canadian Wrestling Federation, based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is now affiliated with the National Wrestling Alliance and it is recognized as "NWA Canada."

Hysteria is the NWA Canadian light-heavyweight titleholder...Crusher



Marshall Duke has been thrilling fans on the CWA circuit in Germany. photo: Scott Ferenczi



Mark Mercedes is one of the rising young lions in Australia. photo: Dave Cameron

such top-seeded local stars as Super Chad and Tony Kozina

ICW: International Championship Wrestling is based in Vancouver, British Columbia. Sumito upset "Streetfighter" Tim Flowers for the International heavyweight title...Combat Girl beat Velvet McIntyre for the WWWA Women's championship.

NCW: The Quebec-based organization recognizes Iceman as their heavyweight champion. The Vipers defeated Access Denied for the tag-team titles.

SPW: Veteran wrestler Jacques Rougeau Jr. has been running shows all throughout Montreal. We are not aware of any recognized champions as we go to press. Many WWF stars have worked on recent shows. They include: DOA's Chainz (Brian Harris), Brian Christopher, The Headbangers, and The Quebecers.

Carl LeDuc, Nelson Veilleux, Kevin Martel, and Suni War Cloud compete here on a regular basis.

GREAT BRITAIN

All Star: World middle-heavyweight champion Marty Jones has successfully defended his crown against Danny Boy Collins in a series of steel-cage matches...Brian Maxine continues as the British middleweight champion...Jimmy Ocean is the lightweight titleholder... The husband-and-wife team of "Rowdy" Ricky Knight and Sweet Sayara are feuding with Jimmy Ocean and Klondyke Kate.

BWF: Boston Blackie is the British Wrestling Federation heavyweight champion...Johnny Saint is the World lightweight titleholder.

CCW: Commonwealth Championship Wrestling of Worcestershire does not recognize any champions as we go to press. "Hustler" Stuart Ace (trained by "Exotic" Adrian Street), "Dragonzen" the Shadowarrior, Les Allen (trained by Ken Shamrock), and Gareth Humphries have competed in CCW's debut shows.

EWA: Dirt Bike Kid (Jason Harrison) holds the British Commonwealth junior-heavyweight and European heavyweight belts...ECW stars Sabu and Rob Van Dam are the Hardcore tag-team champs.

Hammerlock: Jake "Snake" Roberts is

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Misty Blue and Skull von Krush have been taking on all comers throughout the Caribbean. photo: Jon Simmes

expected to tour here soon. A series of "King of the Ring" elimination tournaments were promoted. Doug Williams won the KOTR in Hastings; Justin Richards won a KOTR tourney in Folkestone.

MEGA: Promoter "Mad" Eli Collins recognizes "The Living Legend" Lewis Blain as the Commonwealth champion. The Gangster (Gareth Humphreys) is his top-ranking contender...The MEGA heavyweight title is vacant.

PWA: The Pro Wrestling Alliance recently celebrated its 10th anniversary! The Commonwealth champion is Lewis Blain...The Crow, Steve Noble, and Anthrax Kid have all toured recently.

JAMAICA

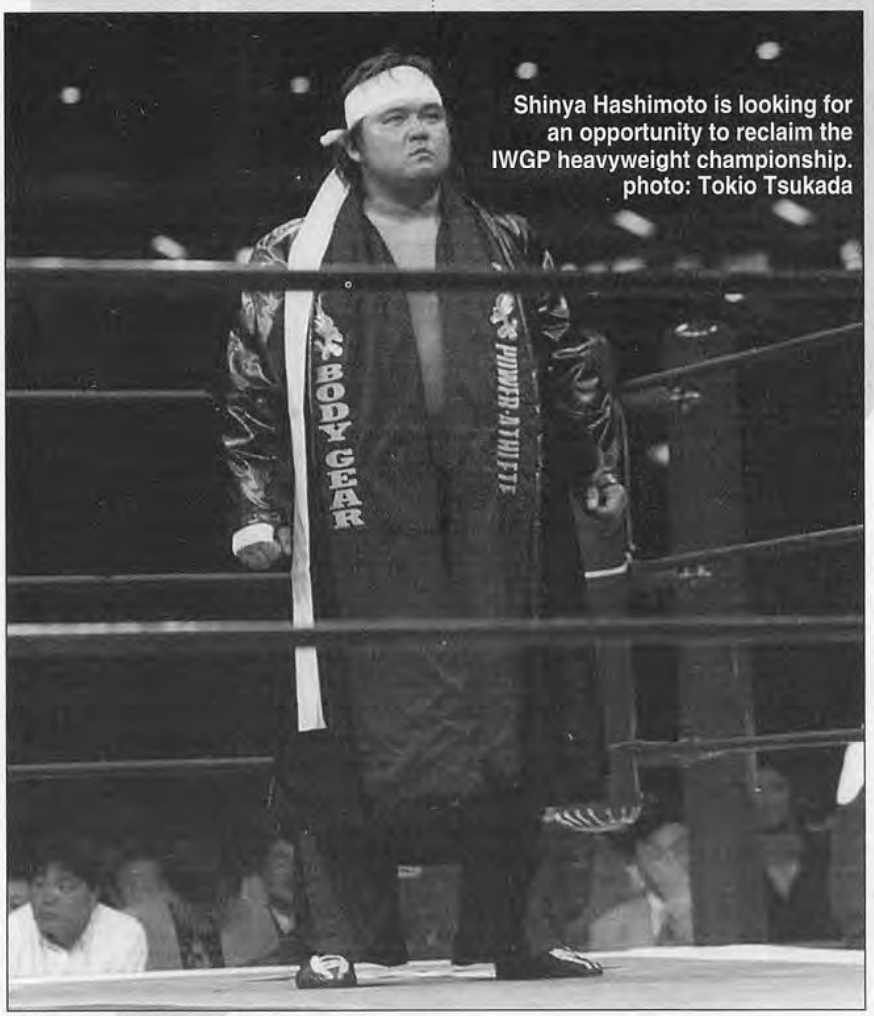
WWC: World Class Wrestling tours Montego Bay, Negril, and Kingston. King Kong Bundy is the World heavyweight titleholder. Peggy Lee Leather is the WWC Women's champion.

JAPAN

All-Japan: Yoshinari Ogawa defeated Satoru Asako for the All-Japan junior-heavyweight championship...Kenta Kobashi is the Triple Crown champion. Jun Akiyama and Akira Taue hold the tag-team titles.

Takako Inoue is the Women's Pacific champion...Momoe Nakanishi is the All-Japan Women's junior champion.

New Japan: Genichiro Tenryu & Shiro Koshinaka defeated Hiroyoshi Tenzan & Masahiro Chono for the IWGP tag-team championship belts...IWGP heavyweight champion Masa Chono is feuding with NWO henchman Scott "Flash" Norton...Shinjiro Otani & Tatsuhito Takaiwa hold the IWGP junior-heavyweight tag-team titles.



Shinya Hashimoto is looking for an opportunity to reclaim the IWGP heavyweight championship. photo: Tokio Tsukada

LEBANON

All Stars: A recent tour of Beirut and Tripoli featured the All-African mid-heavyweight champion Pink Panther, the CWA South African superheavyweight champion Danie Voges, Dave Morgan, Victor Kruger, and Tatanka.

MEXICO

AAA: Perro Aguayo Sr. is the Mexican heavyweight kingpin.

EMLL: The CMLL welterweight champion is Felino.

PANAMA

SLP: Wrestlers currently working under the Super Lucha Promotions banner include the following grapplin' greats: Manuel Guerra, the Beast Man, Azor, Africano, Super Bowl & Blue Demon Jr.

PUERTO RICO

WWC: World Wrestling Council Universal champion Ray Gonzalez (Rámon González Rivera) is feuding with the Invader I (José González)... Vilano III (Arturo Diaz) is after the Puerto Rican title which is currently held by Shane the Glamour Boy (Shane Sweud)...Intercontinental heavyweight champion Pierroth (Norberto Salgado) is feuding with Carlos Colon...Rockero (Luis Oscar Zayas) is the WWC junior-heavyweight champion. ***NWW***

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Vol. 8 - Mr. Moto & Carl Davis vs. Wilbur Snyder & Sandor Szabo. Interviews with Lord Carlson, Davis, Szabo & Snyder.

Vol. 9 - Pat Fraley vs. Pat McGill.

Vol. 10 - Ricki Starr vs. Frank Fonzo. Hombre Montaña vs. Paul Bunyan. WWA Title: Eduoard Carpentier vs. "Legs" Langevin. Dick Beyer vs. Bob Brown. Ilio DiPaolo vs. Hans Schmidt.

Vol. 11 - Verne Gagne vs. Roy McClarity. Don Leo Jonathan vs. Tiger Jack Moore.

Vol. 12 - Dick the Bruiser & Hans Schmidt vs. The Volkoffs. Bronko Lubich vs. Jack Allen. Paul Anderson vs. Bozo Brown.

Vol. 13 - Antonino Rocca vs. Hans Schmidt (referee Joe Louis). Bill Melby vs. The Great Yamoto.

Vol. 14 - Reggie Lisowski (The Crusher) & Balk Estes vs. Baron Arena & Kostas Davelis.

Vol. 15 - Yukon Eric vs. Hans Schmidt. Larry Chene vs. Hessell.

Vol. 16 - Yukon Eric vs. Hans Herman. Rasputin vs. Pat O'Connor.

Vol. 17 - Mitsu Arakawa vs. Tom Martindale. Sky High Lee & Rudy Kay vs. Crusher & The Sheik. Pat O'Connor vs. The Mighty Atlas.

Vol. 18 - Yukon Eric vs. Killer Kowalski. Larry Chene vs. Bobby Nelson.

Vol. 19 - Verne Gagne vs. Lee Hennig. Timothy Geohagen vs. The Masked Marvel. Gene Stanlee vs. "Black Panther" Jim Mitchell.

Vol. 20 - Fritz von Erich vs. Ilio DiPaolo. Guy & Joe Brunetti vs. Doc & Mike Gallagher.

Vol. 21 - Brother Frank Jares vs. "Argentina" Antonino Rocca (2/3 falls—referee Mike Mazurki) + an interview with Rocca!

Vol. 22 - The Great Togo & "Wild" Red Berry vs. Ernie & Emile Dusek (2/3 falls).

Vol. 23 - Don Eagle vs. Danny McShane. (2/3 falls).

Vol. 24 - Ace Freeman vs. Billy Varga. Lou Thesz vs. Tom Rice.

Vol. 25 - Bud Curtis vs. Alex Kasaboski. Andre Drapp vs. The Bushman. Lord James Blears & Dave Levin vs. Tony Morelli & Angelo Cistoldi.

Vol. 26 - Jack MacDonald vs. Baron Leone. Chief Big Heart & The Great Scott vs. Dr. Jerry Graham & "Professor" Roy Shire.

Vol. 27 - Tom Renesto vs. Butch Madre. Andre Drapp vs. Ace Freeman.

Vol. 28 - Reggie Lisowski & Art Neilson vs. The Mighty Atlas & Billy Goelz.

Vol. 29 - Cal Bowser vs. Bamboo Taboo. Ladies—Olga Baranoff vs. Hanka Kavetzka. John Milas, Amir Jojo, Bobby Bruns, and The Indian in a four-way elimination bout. Highlights of Carl Johnson vs. Chief Gray Wolf.

Vol. 30 - The Great Togo vs. Vic Christy. Pat McGill vs. Enrique Torres.

Vol. 31 - Danny McShane vs. The Great Scott (2/3).

Vol. 32 - Gorgeous George vs. Jesse James (2/3 falls).

Vol. 33 - Fred Blassie vs. Mr. Moto (2/3 falls).

Vol. 34 - "Wild" Red Berry vs. Fred Blassie (2/3 falls).

Vol. 35 - Pacific Title: Baron Leone vs. Rito Romero (2/3 falls).

Vol. 36 - Tony Morelli vs. Andre (Angelo) Poffo. "Wild" Red Berry vs. "Cyclone" Anaya (2/3 falls).

Vol. 37 - Al & Ramon Torres vs. Art Mahalik & Mike Sharpe Sr. Great John L. vs. Al Torres. Stan Halek vs. George Drake. WWA Title: Ed Carpentier vs. Mahalik.

Vol. 38 - World Tag Trophy: Reg "The Crusher" Lisowski & Art Neilson vs. Rudy Kay & Benito Gardini. "Legs" Langevin vs. Pat O'Connor. Jerry Christy vs. Angelo Poffo.

Vol. 39 - Pacific Title: Baron Leone vs. Fred Blassie (2/3 falls).

Vol. 40 - "Wild" Red Berry & Bud Curtis vs. Great Bolo & Louie Miller (2/3 falls—two refs) + several interviews.

Vol. 41 - Mr. Moto vs. Wilbur Snyder (2/3 falls).

Vol. 42 - Bob Korby vs. Don Lewin. Sandor Szabo vs. Roger Mackey (2/3 falls). Danny McShane vs. Gino Garibaldi.

Vol. 43 - Dr. Lee Grable vs. Ivan the Terrible. Vic Christy vs. Hans Schnabel. World Title: Baron Leone vs. Billy Varga (2/3 falls).

Vol. 44 - Hard-Boiled Haggerty vs. Mike Valentino. Don Eagle vs. Ramon Lopez. Don Arnold vs. Tarzan Tourville.

Vol. 45 - Pat Fraley vs. Ken Kulkovich. Dave Levin vs. The Bushman. Tony Morelli & Anton Leone vs. The Garibaldi Brothers.

Vol. 46 - Great John L. vs. Nick Bockwinkel. Mike Sharpe Sr. vs. Negro Guzman. Broadway Venus vs. Mr. Moto. Fred Blassie vs. Felipe Mendoza + interviews.

Vol. 47 - Gorgeous George vs. Frank Talaber (2/3 falls - referee Jack Dempsey).

Vol. 48 - Rasputin vs. Jim Londos. Roy McClarity & Jack Guy vs. Kiman Kuda & Walter Achiu (2/3 falls elimination tag) + Jim Londos interview.

Vol. 49 - Danny McShane vs. The Great Scott (2/3 falls) + an interview with McShane.

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MIKE'S MAILBAG

Send your comments & opinions to:
Michael O'Hara, Publisher
New Wave Wrestling
P.O. Box 9035, Grand Station, Dept. MM
Long Island City, NY 11103-0903

Dear Mike,

I've been a serious fan of pro wrestling for over two decades and I noticed that the amount of time wrestled vs. interviews was unbalanced on the TV programs, but I never realized how unbalanced it truly was until I read Ron Berger's assessment of *Raw*, *Nitro*, and *Thunder* in ***NWW #33***. I definitely agree, true fans are being shortchanged by the talk format.

The big promotions are trying to eliminate one another, but by using tactics to boost their greedy egos, they are actually showing how childish and moronic they really are.

Wake up, promoters! You control the health of a business we love. Why don't you compete by improving the quality of the matches?

Jim Scoggan
Aurora, Colorado

Dear Mike,

As a wrestling fan for 20 years, I'm sorry to see what the two major promotions are doing to the industry. Both promotions focus too much on playing ring music and setting off pyros, and don't worry enough about the quality of their bouts.

I grew up watching Florida Championship Wrestling. They didn't have pyros or fancy ring entrances, but they did present world-caliber matches. Gone are the days of real wrestlers. Today's pro wrestlers look more like storybook characters.

When is it all going to end? Gentlemen, please get pro wrestling back to its roots. Let's see some real wrestling!

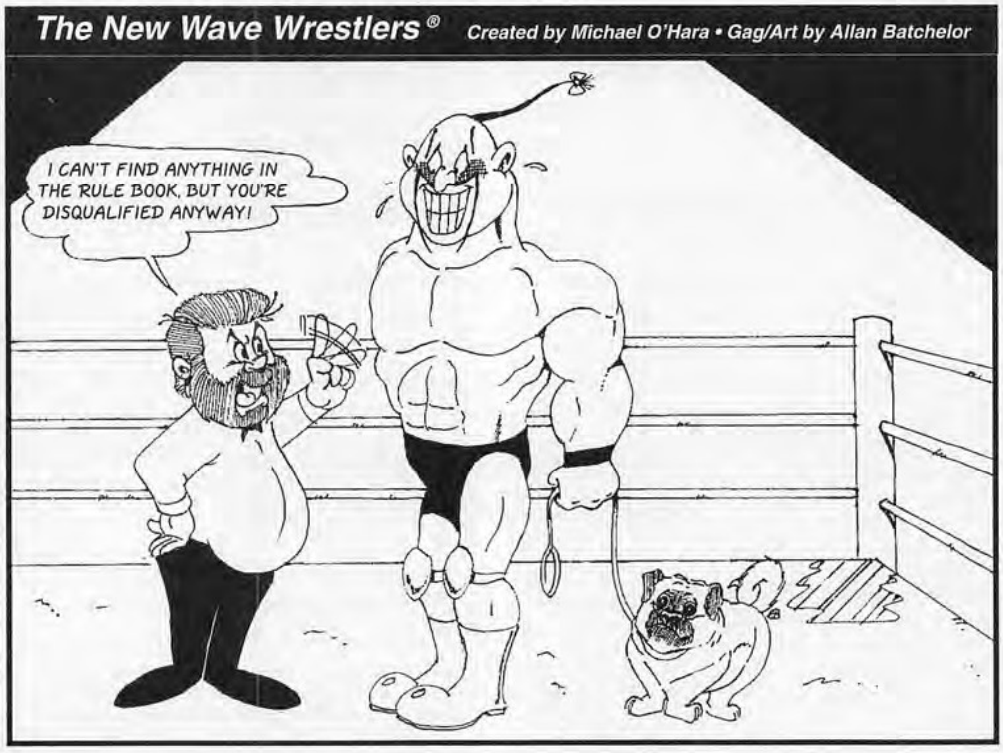
Malik Mercado
Miami Beach, Florida

Dear Mike,

In your last issue, a ***New Waver*** asked about the whereabouts of European wrestler Johnny Eagles.

Well, Johnny Eagles, who wrestled in the old PNW territory in the 1970s before retiring from the sport, is doing very well as the Fleet manager for Syd Dorn Chevrolet in the St. Johns district of Portland, Oregon.

Anthony Domenic
Portland, Oregon


The New Wave Wrestlers® Created by Michael O'Hara • Gag/Art by Allan Batchelor
I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING IN THE RULE BOOK, BUT YOU'RE DISQUALIFIED ANYWAY!

Dear Mike,

At first, the storylines were subtle, but now, especially with the WWF, they are just blatantly stupid. Either I'm getting wiser or they need new writers. Afterall, if these attacks are genuine, why aren't real lawsuits brought against these people? It would bypass the ring and go straight into the courtroom.

The less affluent, regional independents are successful at promoting quality wrestling because that's all they can afford. It's pure wrestling at its finest.

Money seems to equal problems. The names today read like bad cartoons. Gimmicks are more important than skills, and I'm afraid in the midst of all this commercialism we are losing the true meaning of what pro wrestling's all about.

Jo'Nita Michele Pearce
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mike,

Did you happen to see WCW's *Saturday Night* on May 30th and June 6th? They took away my Neutered World Order poster, but not my ***New Wave Wrestling*** poster!

Philip Laine
Lewiston, Maine

Mike's Memo: They would not dare!

Special thanks to Appleton, Wisconsin's Tamara Gillen who wrote that Undertaker has a 5-year-old son named Gunner Vincent, NOT a daughter as reported in the last ish.

The New Wave Wrestlers ® & © 1998 Michael O'Hara

PINFORMATION

Q: Didn't Recon, formerly of the Truth Commission, once compete as the Punisher? Are Tom Prichard and Brother Love brothers? And finally, what happened to Kamala?

Mike Price
Nashville, Tennessee

A: Recon and The Punisher are the same man–Barry Buchanan. Tom Prichard and "Brother Love" Bruce Prichard are siblings. Kamala (James Harris) occasionally wrestles down South.

—•—

Q: Where are Magnum T.A., Great Kabuki, Mr. Wrestling II, Grappler, and "Iron" Mike Sharp? What are their real names? Did Kevin Nash ever play pro football?

Brian Brewer
Waiker, Louisiana

A: Magnum (Terry Allen) retired after a near-fatal auto accident in the mid-1980s. I believe he is involved with a family business. The 50-year-old Great Kabuki (Akihisa Yomera) is retired. Mr. Wrestling II (John Walker) is retired and, I believe, lives in Hawaii. The Grappler (Len Denton) lives in Oregon and is involved in the auto business. Mike Sharp promotes wrestling and runs a training school in New England. Kevin Nash played some pro basketball in Germany, not football.

—•—

Q: Where are the Killer Bees? What is King Kong Bundy's real name and where is he? Who was the Stalker? Where is Special Delivery Jones? Where is the WWF Women's championship belt?

Sam Dunkley
Glengourie, Australia

A: Brian Blair owns a health club in Florida. Jim Brunzell lives in Minnesota. His activities are unknown. Bundy (Chris Pallies) wrestles for many of the northeastern U.S. independent groups.

The Stalker? Who's dat? Can any ***New Waver*** help with info on him?

"Special Delivery" (Sidney) Jones wrestles for the EWA, based in Jay, Maine. Alundra Blayze (Debbie Miceli) still has the Women's title.

—•—

Q: When does Hall and Nash's WCW contract run out? What ways can they get out of their contracts? What is the current status of Demolition's reforming in the WWF? How realistic is it that Flair will return to the WWF? Are Disciple and Hogan related? What happened to the Patriot? Is the Honky Tonk Man still in the WWF? Who do you think would win a no-holds-barred match between Vinnie Mac and Bischoff? Do you think Harley Race will return to manage Vader?

Jason Riegert
Appleton, Wisconsin

A: We've answered the Hall/Nash contract data in previous issues. They're making plenty of money. Why would they want to "get out" of their contracts? Don't believe every rumor you hear.

As for rumors, the mill constantly churns regarding Demolition, but, so far, no substantial facts.

Flair is back in WCW. The Disciple (Ed Leslie) and Hogan are not related. They are high-school friends.

The Patriot (Del Wilkes) sustained a leg injury over a year ago. We have no updates on his exploits.

Honky (Wayne Ferris) continues to wrestle on East Coast independents.

McMahon vs. Bischoff—who cares! There are no plans for Harley to return to manage Vader at this time.

—•—

Q: Where are Ray Traylor, Paul Diamond, and Paul Roma? Are the Pitbulls in the WWF now? What happened to Corp. Kirschner? Where is Barry Windham? Will Rob Van Dam stay with ECW or go to the WWF? What's going on with Nailz?

Dustin Rodkey
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

A: Traylor's whereabouts are unknown. Diamond (Paul Boric) is competing in ECW rings. Paul Roma (Paul Centopani) is expected in a major league soon.

Windham is wrestling for New Jersey's NWA. Rumor has it the Pitbulls (Gary Wolfe and Anthony Durante) will invade the WWF with either Marlena (Terri Runnels) or Sable (Rena Mero) at the helm. We'll see.

Corporal Kirschner (Mike Kirschner) wrestles exclusively in Japan as Leatherface.

As far as I know, RVD is staying in ECW for now.

Nailz (Kevin Wacholz) isn't wrestling at press time. I'd like to see him team up with Greg Valentine. (Hammer & Nailz—get it? Groan!)

—•—

Q: During the 1980s, Ricky Valentine came to Montreal. They said he was the brother of Greg "The Hammer" Valentine. Is this true? Where is he now? Is Vladimir Petrov of early WCW and Vladimir Koloff of the AWA the same man? Are they still wrestling?

Pierre Houde
Montreal, Canada

A: Ricky Valentine is Kerry Brown, the nephew of the late "Bulldog" Bob Brown. His whereabouts are unknown.

Vladimir Petrov was played by Al Blake, and he no longer wrestles. I'm not sure if he played Vlad Koloff. Can any ***New Waver*** help with info?

—•—

Q: What is the possibility of an issue dedicated to female wrestlers or an issue with only photos? How about listings of upcoming wrestling events?

Tony Cianciolo
West Haven, Connecticut

A: Sorry, but there just aren't enough women wrestlers to warrant a full issue dedicated to them.

An issue just filled with photos? Our competitors basically publish "picture books," so you have plenty to choose from.

A listing of upcoming events would be a boring read for most readers. If you live in Connecticut, do you really want to read a lengthy list of upcoming shows in West Virginia, and vice versa?

—•—

Q: Was Val Venus really a porn star? Is Roddy Piper a Canadian? Are HHH and Chyna engaged?

John Shaker
Kitchener, Canada

A: No. Yes. No. (Why can't all letters be like this?!)

—•—

Q: Is Dr. Isaac Yankem Sid Vicious? Where is George "The Animal" Steele?

Michael Roush
Duncannon, Pennsylvania

A: Dr. Yankem (who now plays Kane) is Glen Jacobs. Sid Vicious is Sid Eudy. George Steele (Jim Myers) wrestles for GWA in your state of Pennsylvania.

—•—

Q: Where is Gordon Solie these days?

Anthony Lefas
New York City

A: The 69-year-old Gordon Solie is semiretired and lives in Florida, but he has been involved with an internet wrestling site as well as does voice-over play-by-plays for Japanese matches syndicated in non-U.S. markets.

Send your questions to:
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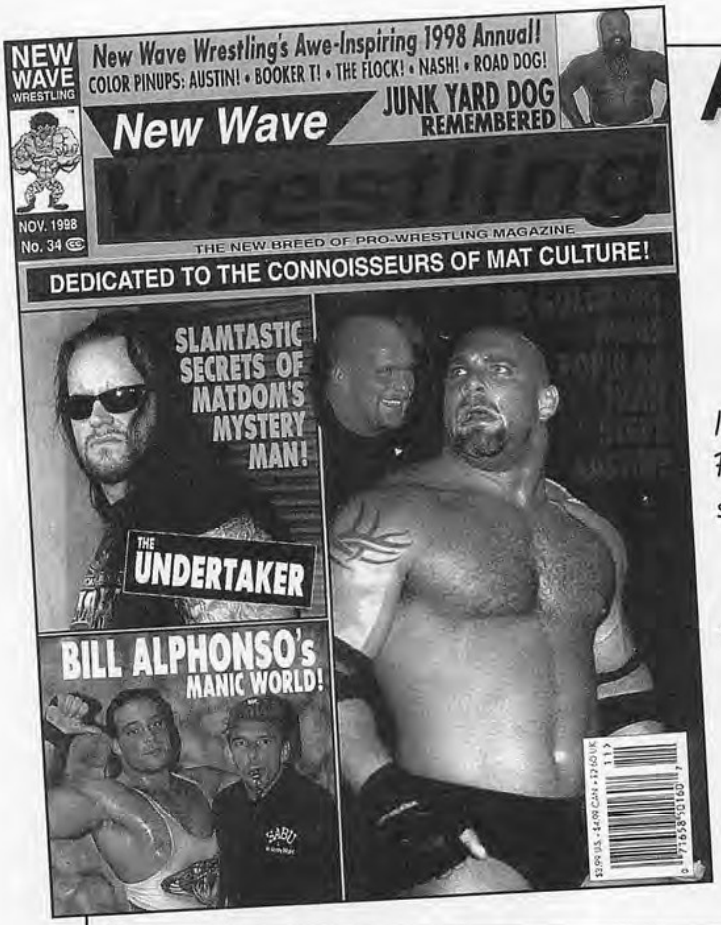
That's all for this issue, ***New Waver***. Keep those positive waves, and good night, B.S. Pully, wherever you are!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